Vol. 44, No. 3

The Maryland Yellowthroat

August, 2024

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Searching the Trees for Migrants

Finding the Piping Plover

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The Maryland Yellowthroat

Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society

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Editor's Note

This issue of The Maryland Yellowthroat illustrates in high relief how vibrant and multi-faceted is the MOS. Thanks to our dedicated and talented members, we have much to report about our multifarious activities.

Let's start with the YMOS's (MOS Youth Program's) recent foray to New Jersey, featured on the front cover, where, once again, our representatives, guided by George Radcliffe and Wayne Bell, competed in the annual World Series of Birding. Once again, they dazzled with their energy and skill. This year, our delegation featured six youth teams and, for the first time, an adult team made up of YMOS alumni. How did we do? The Adult team came in first, the High School team came in second to the New Jersey team, the Carbon-free team came in first, the Middle School teams came in first and second, setting a meet record in the process, and the two Elementary teams came in first and second. An incredibly impressive showing, but as George says in his summary beginning on page 15, "the most important takeaway from the week is the remarkable cooperation, sharing, and learning. In reality, it is a tremendous learning experience for all.." Read his account, as well as the recollections of Vitus Li, one of our youth team members, and Andrea Appleton, one of the noble, "bleary-eyed" parents accompanying our teams. Bravo to YMOS yet once again.

Then, we have reports by the six fortunate Maryland educators who were able to attend National Audubon's Hog Island Camp in Maine last summer, thanks to MOS-provided scholarships. Reading their stories can give you a heightened appreciation of the impact these scholarships have and, perhaps, a little envy as we picture immersing ourselves in nature on the idyllic Maine coast with fellow naturalists and educators and supremely knowledgeable instructors (while we swelter here - it's 99 degrees F. at the moment). Many thanks to Anna Urciolo for enthusiastically shepherding the MOS Scholarship program all those years, and welcome to Anna's successor, Allison Moore, and thanks for picking up the torch.

On the conservation front, our Conservation Chair, Robin Todd updates us, with his usual depth and clarity, on the latest developments of two environmental issues impacting birds - the wood pellet industry and neonicotinoid-treated seeds. Meg Harris reminds us about the upcoming MOS convention, this year in Ocean City November 22-24, while Kathy Brown enlists your creative energy in designing the 2024 MOS convention pin. Also enlisting your help are Gene Scarpulla who is looking for individuals who might be interested in succeeding him as editor of Maryland Birdlife (after 11 years of service! Thanks, Gene!), and Marcia Watson, who would love to find people interested in serving as Regional Editors for the online MOS *Birder's Guide to MD and DC.* And Chuck Stirrat lets us know about the annual Fall Seasonal Bird Count, which will be held this year on the 3rd weekend of September in the Maryland-DC area. Come and participate, no matter your skill level; every pair of eyes makes a difference!

And, once again, MOS sponsored a birding expedition to an exotic destination, this time to Costa Rica. Marcia Watson tells us what happened in a wonderfully detailed and illustrated account. If you're considering a visit to Costa Rica, comparatively affordable and convenient as exotic destinations go, her article will not only inspire, but will assist you in planning with many helpful details. Meanwhile, of course, MOS members have been out birding, both in Maryland and abroad; their stories and beautiful photos, can be found, as usual, in Chapter Chatter.

All this, and we haven't even mentioned MOS field trips, lectures, monthly meetings, sanctuaries, service projects.....

President's Corner

Dear MOS members,

In every issue of *the Yellowthroat*, there are requests for volunteers. If you read this attentively, you may even recognize that the same task was already advertised in a previous issue. Does this discourage you?-- Are you wondering why we keep advertising tasks that obviously no one wants to do? Well, because this is the way to recruit volunteers! So, let me tell you about the volunteers we have recruited recently, and why don't you consider to join them?

1. Phil Davis, Secretary of the MD/DC Records Committee, and his collaborator Dave Bridge, have been looking for someone to give a home to Chan Robbins' historical Christmas Bird Count Records (paper, not computer records). If no one took these records, they would be discarded.

On June 7th, an email came from Danny Poet, long time member of the Caroline County bird club. Danny expressed interest, not only in the Caroline counts but also in the Eastern Shore, Denton, Kent Island, Lower Kent, Talbot, St Michael's and Dorchester Counts and Maps. Rarely have I felt so good upon receiving a brief email! Thank you, Danny.

2. For several months, we have searched for someone to replace Ross Geredien as Chair of the MOS EDI (Equality, Diversity, Inclusivity) Committee. The night before the June MOS Board Meeting, where I was hoping to hear from some new volunteers, a phone call told me that Cheryl Hogue, one of the State Directors from Montgomery County, accepted to assume the Chair job.

Cheryl had already joined the Committee itself and has taken on herself to acknowledge the native peoples on whose lands we hold our meetings when we open a Board or other in-person meeting. You can look forward to hear her acknowledge several native peoples when we open the Ocean City Convention in November. Yeah! That's the way to go.

3. Even more recently, Anna Urciolo, who is stepping down after several years as Chair of the MOS Scholarship Committee sent me the good news that Allison Moore, a member of the Baltimore Bird Club has offered to become Chair of this Committee. I have not yet had a chance to meet Allison, but I understand that she is already a member of the BBC Scholarship Committee and that she has attended the Audubon Hog Island Camp. She certainly has the necessary experience. Welcome, Allison!

4. Then, we have often advertised the need for volunteers to help organize this year's MOS Convention. A few months ago, Mary Ryan presented herself as a volunteer to recruit commercial outfits to donate goods as raffle or silent auction donations. She has already obtained several pairs of good binoculars, numerous items from the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, and various games to entertain your kids or grandkids. As the Convention Committee has found out: "Mary rocks!".

Thank you to these several MOS members who have comforted us by coming out of the shadows. Won't you join them? There must be one of you who wants to succeed Gene Scarpulla as Editor of Maryland Birdlife. And there **HAS** to be one of you who is eager to succeed Meg Harris and to chair our 2025 Convention. Don't wait any longer. We know you are there!

In the meantime, have a good Summer.

--Evelyn

Evelyn Ralston

President, Maryland Ornithological Society.

Conservation Corner

by Robin Todd, Ph.D.

The Wood Pellet Industry; False promises and lost forests

Introduction

There is a relative newcomer to the alternative energy scene that claims to be 'carbon neutral' and to be able to replace fossil fuels as an energy source.This is the wood pellet industry, and it is having significant impacts on the nation's forests and therefore upon our birds as well. This industry uses wood or agricultural by-products (e.g. straw) to produce cylindrical pellets (roughly ½ inch diameter 1 inch long). Production involves chipping, drying and compressing them to yield the final pellets. The pellets are then supplied to power stations to be burnt to produce electric energy. The pellets can also be used to heat homes. I had assumed that this industry only used waste wood and agricultural by-products and was thus an environmentally benign form of power generation. However, the grim reality is that the industry consumes huge quantities of whole trees felled specifically to manufacture these pellets.

CARBON NEUTRAL?

The industry promotes itself as being 'energy neutral' since the CO2 emitted when pellets are burnt will approximately equal the CO2 these trees took up, photosynthetically, in order to grow. The carbon neutral designation originated from an IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) assessment in 1990, which led the EU to issue its Renewable Energy Directive of 2005. This directive determined that energy derived by burning 'biomass' was carbon neutral. This designation has greatly helped the industry obtain governmental subsidies. The reassuring picture of carbon neutrality and the use of scraps of waste wood and agricultural by-products is contradicted by the underlying facts, as laid bare by three excellent reports by the Rachel Carson Council, 'Bad Business' and 'Clear Cut' and 'Greenwashing' which can reached from the links below.

https://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Bad-Business-Web.pdf

https://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Clear-Cut-web.pdf

https://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/greenwashing-web-2.pdf

The industry's claim of energy neutrality is undercut by the decades required for new trees to grow and replace those cut down for pellet production. The urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas production within the next few years, if we are to have any chance of averting a runaway climate catastrophe, makes a mockery of this claim. We simply do not have time for these replacement trees to grow and take up the CO2 emitted by the burning of their predecessors as pellets. Added to this, there is no requirement for the industry to actually replant the areas that have been clear cut. And, even if they are replanted, the result will often be sterile monocultures of pines, of little value in terms of biodiversity, including birds.

It is estimated that 220 acres (roughly 200 football pitches) of forest are cleared per day to produce wood pellets. Enviva alone cuts 50 acres per day. In North Carolina, it is estimated that the industry cuts down at least 164 acres per day. Thus, huge swaths of forest are being clear cut to feed this industry.

MANUFACTURERS, LOCATIONS AND CUSTOMERS

The pellet industry is concentrated in the South East of the country, but there are also facilities in the western states, including plans for two new ones in California. And there are already wood pellet plants in British Columbia.

Enviva, an American company, with its corporate HQ in Maryland, is the world's largest pellet producer with facilities in Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and Virginia, and it plans for another in Alabama. UK-based Drax is another major company. It was originally a coal company that switched over to biomass in 2012. Drax produces and purchases pellets for export, mostly to the UK. Seventy five per cent of wood pellets produced in the US are exported to the UK (80%) and the EU (20%). The UK and the EU count their use of wood pellets towards their decarbonizing goals and consequently subsidize their use.*The UK subsidized wood pellet companies, primarily Drax, to the tune of $2.7 Billion in 2020.* It is a sad commentary on the industry that US forests are being lost to supply the energy needs of other countries under the false guise of carbon neutrality.

TROUBLED FINANCES

The industry is not on a sound financial footing, partly because the power produced from its pellets is more expensive than that from fossil fuels, wind, or solar power. Biomass in general is only one third as energy dense as coal (one ton of coal is equivalent to roughly three tons of biomass). The switch from burning wood to coal at the start of the Industrial Revolution was due to coal's much greater efficiency. This is a major reason for the industry needing subsidies. For example, USDA'S Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) incentivized the production and delivery of biomass products, such as wood pellets. The BCAP was meant to give producers incentives to produce and deliver biomass feedstocks. In 2009 and 2010 taxpayers coughed up $243 million dollars to support these industries. These supports were later reduced, but still totaled $25 million dollars per year. More recently, the

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) has provided subsidies owing to its carbon neutrality designation. Enviva has, for example, received $6 million in state and local subsidies for its operations in North Carolina. Drax received $1.15 million in governmental subsidies in 2021 and 2022. There are many other examples of such subsidies.

Worse yet, a few pellet plants have closed due to economic pressures, often because of the high price of the power they generate. Thus, four plants closed in New Hampshire because of their high prices. Eversource, a New Hampshire utility company which was the customer, finally asked the state legislature to fund the above market prices of biomass-produced power, and they did so. Similarly in Maine, above-market power costs from biomass were covered by the state's taxpayers.

Responding to doubts about the actual renewability of power from burning biomass, the UK and the EU have recently been reconsidering their support for biomass energy in favor of wind and solar power. The latter two sources already generate power more cheaply and far less destructively than wood pellets, and their costs are declining every year as these technologies are refined. This reconsideration of the use of biomass will likely lead to reduced subsidies or dropping them altogether in the UK and the EU.

Enviva declared Chapter 11 bankruptcy in March of this year, with a 50% decline in wood pellet prices as a major cause. In addition,equipment used in pellet production is suffering from corrosion problems owing to the acidic nature of the pine wood burnt (this from notes from a company whistle blower). Replacement with stainless steel equipment should solve this problem, but it would be an expensive upgrade. Construction on a new facility in Epes, Alabama, is continuing, but work has been paused on one planned for Bond, Mississippi.

BENEFITS OF THE LOST FORESTS, ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE, & FEW JOBS

When tracts of forests are cut down, their considerable ecosystem services, namely carbon capture and sequestration, water and air cleaning, and serving as reservoirs of biodiversity, are lost. This is particularly so in the case of mature forests. Such forests help prevent severe flooding; their removal in the South Eastern states has been followed by flooding of areas previously immune from such events. The lost forested areas are also losses of habitat for forest dwelling birds. Amphibians and reptiles also suffer from this wholesale loss of living spaces.

Wood pellet facilities are located predominantly in parts of the country where typical incomes are low and where there are large percentages of people of color. Wood pellet plants emit considerable amounts of fine particulates (PM2.5, particles of 2.5 micrometers or less) which exacerbate breathing problems, as well as pollutants, including formaldehyde, nitrogen oxides, and methanol. In addition to polluting the air, the plants are very noisy and emit strong, disagreeable odors. The close proximity of such plants to these groups is a clear case of environmental injustice

One of the main justifications that the industry makes for locating in these areas is that it provides many well-paying jobs in areas where such jobs are scarce. However, the record paints a different picture. Projections of numbers of jobs provided by pellet facilities are almost never realized, and the actual pay that workers make is less than the national average. For example, Enviva promised to bring 2,000 new jobs in North Carolina, but, as of 2020, it had only created 250-300 such jobs. The average salary was only $31,000, much lower than the national average of $47,060 (Bureau of Labor Statistics).

SOLUTIONS

The RCC reports offer multiple policy solutions to the ills that the wood pellet industry causes and to the problem of climate change, which it will not solve and which, in fact it will only exacerbate. Principal among these is stopping subsidies for the industry and focusing resources on wind and solar energy.

NEW YORK STATE BANS NEONICS

After so much gloom about the wood pellet industry, I will end with good news from New York State. This state has just passed the Birds and Bees Protection Act, which bans use of neonicotinoid-treated seeds for corn, soybeans and wheat (the main agricultural use of neonics). There are exemptions for farmers who face pest problems requiring neonics, as documented by an agronomist. EPA does not monitor the use of neonics as seed treatments, owing what is known as the 'treated article exemption', yet this use has been linked to many widespread declines in pollinators and birds. In a sad irony, these seed treatments are largely ineffective; many studies have shown little or no increase in harvests from treated crops. EPA's continued failure to regulate neonic-treated seeds means that it is up to the states to act. New York has now done just that. Bravo! In Maryland, neonics are banned for consumer outdoor uses, but farmers, certified applicators, and veterinarians can still use them.

The American Bird Conservancy (led by our friend and colleague, Hardy Kern), NRDC, and Audubon all worked hard to bring this legislative achievement in New York State. Let us hope that other states, including Maryland, follow suit.

Good birding to you all!

Best regards,

Robin G. Todd, MOS Conservation Chair

Maryland Birdlife Editor Search

Gene Scarpulla is planning to retire as Editor of *Maryland Birdlife* after the publication of the two 2024 issues. He will have served as Editor for 11 years, 2014–2024 (21 issues). Gene, Associate Editor Mark Johnson, and the MOS board are searching for a suitable replacement. The Editor needs to be detail-oriented, a bit of a nitpicker, and have good writing/editing skills. Does this sound like you? Gene will initially assist and guide the new Editor. If this opportunity might interest you, and/or you would like further information, please contact Gene at birdlife@mdbirds.org.

Help Wanted: Regional Editors for the online MOS *Birder's Guide to MD and DC*

The *Birder's Guide to MD & DC* is seeking four or five Regional Editors, one each for Western, Central, Southern, and Eastern Maryland and perhaps a fifth for DC. The Regional Editors will be the local "eyes and ears" for the *Birder's Guide* with respect to birding locations within each region. These are new volunteer positions to assist the Editor in maintaining and improving the website.

The Regional Editors will help keep the existing entries on the website up-to-date; will help develop new entries for additional birding locations; and will work together with the Editor to steer the future of the overall website.

No special website skills are needed, but internet access and ability to communicate by email and participate in online meetings are essential. A familiarity with the geography of the assigned region and its public parks and other birding locations is also essential. Knowledge of using eBird hotspot information would be helpful but can be learned. Ability to use Google maps and directions would also be helpful in the development of birding location descriptions. These are volunteer positions; no compensation is provided.

If interested, please send email to Marcia Watson, the Birder's Guide Editor, at marshwren50@comcast.net.

The MOS 2024 Convention!

Have you heard that from Friday November 22 until Sunday November 24, 2024 (the weekend before Thanksgiving), MOS will hold its 76th Convention at the Grand Hotel of Ocean City, Worcester County, MD? Birding before feasting! Could there be a better way to start the holiday season than meeting fellow birders from all parts of Maryland?

Check out the MOS Convention website for the latest available information.

We have lined up great speakers. The Friday night Chandler S. Robbins Keynote Address will be given by the new Executive Director of the American Birding Association (ABA), Wayne Klockner, who will discuss opportunities for protecting birds through citizen science, awareness and outreach. The Saturday night Keynote Address will be given by Dr. Naamal De Silva, Vice President for "Together for Birds" of the American Bird Conservancy (ABC). She will tell us how ABC Conservation and Justice fellows help collectively care for birds and people in diverse communities.

In the Saturday afternoon seminar, our own Mark England and Cheryl Hogue (Montgomery County Bird Club) will introduce you to best practices for leading field trips. Here is your chance to brush up on your skills!

We are finalizing our field trip locations and schedule and have over 30 highly experienced leaders to introduce you to the wonderful birds of Ocean City every day of the Convention.

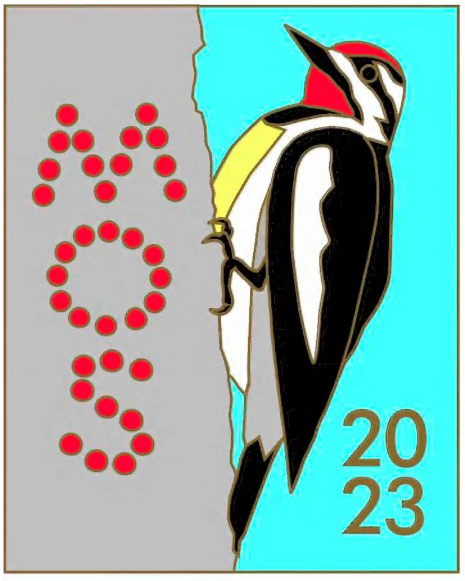
Test your chance to win bird artwork, new feeders or a new pair of binoculars, all courtesy of our sponsors, in a raffle or silent auction. Discover the 2024 MOS Pin that will be in your package when you register. That Pin will be the winner of our Pin Design Contest. You can also proudly wear our Convention T-shirt and admire the winning photos of the MOS Bird Photo Contest.

So, spread the word - the more the merrier! See you in Ocean City!

Pin Contest Announcement

Calling all MOS artists, experienced and aspiring! Each convention, a pin is designed, produced, and given to all convention attendees. Convention pins represent the time of year and a bird species appropriate to the location. Pin designs are selected by competition and are highly treasured convention souvenirs. In 2024 the convention will be held November 22 - 24 in Ocean City. (Here is a link to the eBird generated bar chart for Worcester County: https://ebird.org/barchart?r=US-MD-047.)

The convention Pin Design Contest is open and accepting entries until the deadline of September 1, 2024. Artists will submit their pin designs directly onto the MOS website. After creating your artwork, take a picture of it and download it online. More contest information and instructions for submission can be found on the MOS website: https://mdbirds.org/join/annual-convention/convention-pin-contest/. Please reach out to the pin contest coordinator Kathy Brown at kathybrown07@verizon.net if you have any questions.



MARYLAND FALL COUNT 2024

The annual Fall Seasonal Bird Count sponsored by MOS will be held on the 3rd weekend of September in the Maryland-DC area. The MOS Board has left the choice of whether the count will be on **Saturday the 16th or Sunday the 17th** to local chapters and coordinators. **In areas without an identified coordinator, individual parties submit their results directly to the statewide coordinator for inclusion**.

Anyone can participate, no matter your skill level.Every pair of eyes helps, and it can be a great learning experience and a lot of fun. The results of the count will appear in an article in the Spring 2025 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

The guidelines for this count are generally the same as those used for all seasonal counts. Local coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation for unusual sightings. Individual coordinators may provide specific instructions on how they want to receive inputs. Options include emailing copies of eBird checklists, sending photos/scans of hard copies you created, or a copy of the simple Excel spreadsheet (available on MOS website). A new checklist compilation form (AOS Supplement Order 64) and a spreadsheet capable of being sorted in either AOS or eBird order is available on the MOS website at the following link:

https://mdbirds.org/go-birdwatching/count-birds/fall-count-fall-migration/

The list includes the species one could expect to find in Maryland during this season. Those species on the list requiring further written documentation are noted with asterisks, and all write-ins require full details**.**

The fall counts, dates, and compilers (that were confirmed by the calendar deadline) are listed in the MOS Yellowthroat on-line calendar. **A list of the county coordinators can also be accessed on the MOS website listed above.** Anyone who has organized a count that is not included, or who is interested in volunteering as a coordinator for another county currently without a coordinator, is encouraged to contact the state coordinator.

Deadline for submitting completed reports to your county/chapter coordinator is October 1, 2024. County compilers are asked to submit compilations to the state coordinator by October 15.

If you don't have web access or you are interested in counting in a county without a coordinator, contact the state-wide Fall Count Coordinator directly. Individual parties or other groups (e.g. Hawk Watch sites or chapter field trips) who count in areas without a coordinator, but have data for the count dates, are asked to submit their data along with details on what area was covered, participants, and coverage statistics directly to the state Fall Count Coordinator by October 15.

Join the fun and have a great day birding!

Chuck Stirrat,

MOS State-wide Fall Count Coordinator

13318 Hunt Ridge, Ellicott City, MD 21042-1155

Home phone: 410-531-2417

E-mail: stirrbird@outlook.com

Announcement: Screening of "Bird Walk"

A new documentary featuring Rockville's RedGate Park

by Cintia Cabib

At RedGate Park in Rockville, Maryland, there are visual reminders that this 131-acre green space was once a golf course: sand traps, a shuttered clubhouse, and golf balls buried in the grass. RedGate Golf Course, which was owned by the City of Rockville, closed in December, 2018, after the city, dismayed by the golf course's poor condition, ended its contract with the management company, Billy Casper Golf. The deteriorating course might not have appealed to golfers, but its trees, ponds, and shrubs were a big attraction for another species: birds.

Soon after its closure, birders began visiting the defunct RedGate Golf Course. By November 2019, 123 bird species had been sighted. I learned about this avian oasis from my friend Vickie Baily, an avid birder and photographer. In January 2020, I joined Vickie and the Montgomery Bird Club for a bird walk at this abandoned golf course.

At the time, I was familiar with my backyard birds, such as Blue Jays, Northern Cardinals, and American Robins, but I had never seen a Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, or Belted Kingfisher – species that were very common at RedGate. I was also curious about the future of RedGate. Would it be developed, or would it be transformed into a park, as advocated by many community members and birders?

As a documentary filmmaker, I have produced programs featuring the Washington, D.C. area community, with a focus on the environment, arts, and multicultural issues.

The former golf course facing an uncertain future, its role as an oasis for birds, and the diverse group of birders who frequented RedGate provided me with a compelling story, as well as rich visual and sound elements. In the fall of 2021, after purchasing a camera with a long telephoto lens, production began in earnest on my documentary, "Bird Walk."

Over a two-year period, I interviewed birders of all ages and backgrounds who had flocked to RedGate, local conservationists who urged the Rockville mayor and city council to preserve RedGate as a public park, weed warriors who removed invasive plants which damaged the ecosystem, and the senior director of the National Audubon Society's Migratory Bird Initiative. I made numerous trips to the park to capture the birds with my camera. I learned that during the past 50 years, the North American bird population has declined by almost 30 percent. I saw how important the habitats at RedGate Park were for the survival of migratory birds and year-round resident birds.

On May 4th, "Bird Walk" premiered to a full house at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland. There will be another free screening at Brookside Gardens on **Tuesday, October 22 at 11 a.m.** hosted by Montgomery Parks as part of Birdability Week.

I have now embarked on an outreach and distribution fundraising campaign to bring "Bird Walk" to towns and cities across the U.S. and to create a screening toolkit. Through the film, I want to inspire kids and adults to discover the joys of birding, motivate them to protect our declining bird population, and show them how they can become citizen scientists by recording their bird observations.

To learn more about "Bird Walk," upcoming screenings, and how to host your own screening of the film, visit www.birdwalkfilm.com.

Cintia Cabib films Karsyn Sterns at RedGate Park.

Photo by Stephon Sterns

Did you know???????????

Two of MOS' ten sanctuaries have overnight accommodations. For very few $$ per night. And only one member of the party need be an MOS member

So why not gather up family and friends and spend a few days at either Carey Run in Garrett county, or Irish Grove in Somerset.

Details are on the MOS webpage (mdbirds.org/menu/conservation/refuges)

MOS Scholarship Update

First bit of news: I will be retiring from the Scholarship Committee Chair and we are looking for someone to take over this committee and project. Please contact Evelyn Ralston if you are interested.

This article is to alert all MOS members and especially Chapter presidents about the upcoming advertisement of the 2025 Audubon Hog Island camp scholarship project.

The camp is still finishing up their 2024 workshops and haven't determined the dates for the summer 2025 sessions. After these dates have been set, all Chapter presidents will receive a flyer and other documents so that they can advertise the camp at a club meeting, in a chapter newsletter, and via email to members.

This summer, five people received scholarships from MOS and attended one of three workshops: Joy of Birding, Field Ornithology, and Sharing Nature: an Educator's Week. You will be reading their reports and hopefully they will be able to share their experiences at a chapter meeting.

The following is information that will be on the flyer.

Calling all teachers and naturalists involved with environmental education and conservation. The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) annually awards scholarships to the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremen, Maine for people involved in these fields.

Each award covers the cost of tuition, room, and board for an intensive five or six-day course of study and instruction in ornithology, ecology, conservation, and natural history. Travel arrangements and costs are the responsibility of the recipient~~:~~, however there will be a travel stipend offered by the EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusitivity) Committee.

The Hog Island Audubon Camps are known for their high level of instruction by top-notch educators such as Pete Dunne, Scott Weidensaul and Steve Kress in past years.

Dates for the workshops offered for 2025 scholarships are TBA:

The Joy of Birding

Field Ornithology

Sharing Nature: an Educator's Week

I will be retiring from the Scholarship Committee and we are looking for someone to take over this worthy committee and project. Please contact Eveyln Ralston if you are interested.

For details regarding the application process, please check the MOS web site:https://mdbirds.org/education/

I will be retiring from the Scholarship Committee Chair and we are looking for someone to take over this committee and project. Please contact Evelyn Ralston if you are interested.

Anna Urciolo, Scholarship Chair

2023 MOS Scholarship Recipient Reports

My name is Adam Muffley, and I am a full-time park ranger at Fort Smallwood Park, located in Pasadena, MD. I have four years' experience at this specific location; however, I have been a lifelong enthusiast for nature and ornithology. When I was informed that there was a birding scholarship at Hog Island in Bremen, Maine, I knew that this was a trip of a lifetime and that I HAD to go. When I learned that I did, in fact, receive this opportunity, ecstatic and grateful would be an understatement. In return, I vouched to do everything in my power to pass on what I learned and the perspective that it gave me.

I had never been to Maine, so as I arrived to a foreign location with a group of foreign people, there were certainly feelings of apprehension. However, these nervous feelings quickly dissipated as I realized that I actually used to work with one of the other guys who had received the scholarship, and that everyone in general was extremely friendly and relatable. When you have a common interest such as birding, all other things quickly fall by the wayside.

From early on, I realized how awesome and astute all the other campers were, allowing myself to be a sponge and to obtain an insurmountable amount of information that could be used for others. Every day, I made it a goal to go on as many walks as possible with anyone who wanted to come, starting with sunrise, hours before breakfast was served. During these walks I saw birds I had never heard of before, and learned of applications that I could use for birding in the future. Then, when we weren't learning or doing walks on site, we had field trips and witnessed many amazing things out in nature, such as a porcupine asleep high up in the trees. This was something I had wanted to see for a long time, so this was truly amazing.

Prior to this camp, I felt very stressed with my life and everything that is going on in this world. This trip reminded me that things can be much simpler, and that sometimes a bird walk in the woods is all you need. Post Hog Island, I have now started to plan a few bird walks that would hope to not only aim at the avid birders, but for anyone looking for a therapeutic experience. When you are out there looking for birds, all other things do not matter. You are grounded and are so focused at the particular bird song or plumage, that when you find out what you are hearing/seeing, the serotonin you receive is unmeasurable. I believe that this should be pushed more as an alternative to modern day medicine.

Post Hog Island, I have also seen myself become MUCH more interested in the various bird sites and in posting my findings. I always had an e-bird account, but I am now active on it. This trip has compelled me to constantly be on the lookout for new birds or sounds. Being a park ranger, this correlates perfectly with my type of work. Not only am I running programs related to birders, but I am also pushing this to patrons in a normal day-to-day interaction.

At the end of the trip, I bought a picture of Atlantic Puffins, another highlight of the trip, and had all of the

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professors/teachers sign the back. This is something I do not usually do, but I was so moved by how great of a job they all did, I had to do it. This picture is the first thing you see when you walk into my apartment and I am constantly reading the back at the various positive comments. This trip changed my life and I would strongly recommend this to anyone who is remotely interested in nature or birds. Hog Island will seriously change your life forever.

Adam Muffley

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder...he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in." ~Rachel Carson

For the past 18 years, it has been my life's work to instill in my students a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around them. I have been a Life Science teacher at Rising Sun Middle School for the past four years. Prior to that, I was an elementary school teacher. This past summer I had the privilege of attending "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" at the Hog Island Audubon Camp as a result of a generous scholarship from the Maryland Ornithological Society. Attending this camp afforded me the opportunity to learn new skills and teaching practices and to collaborate with others with similar interests and teaching experiences. This wonderful experience inspired me to bring additional environmental and agricultural lessons to my classroom.

This experience was wonderful from the start. The staff and counselors were absolutely amazing. As we arrived, we were greeted by camp counselors who have the sunniest dispositions; always welcoming, always smiling, and always attentive. The food was also amazing, and the talented chef even shared some of her recipes. We were treated to a fresh lobster dinner on the last evening. The entire staff was extremely knowledgeable and accepting of all individuals, creating a safe space for a diverse group of learners.

Class offerings were also diverse. Campers were able to choose which sessions they wanted to attend based on their own individual needs. Session options covered a wide range of various different topics such as: nature journaling, birding, mushroom identification, geology, relative dating, tree identification, and seine net fishing. We also had educational opportunities in the evening. We learned about the numerous different apps and websites, such as eBird, Merlin, Seek, and INaturalist. A group of entomologists gave a talk about pyro entomology and the importance of fire on biodiversity. We also had a group discussion about how to bring nature to the at-risk and underserved communities. In addition, we had activities such a silent hike, forest bathing, a six mile hike around the island, and... my personal favorite, a trip to Eastern Egg Rock Island to see the Puffins.

During my time at camp, I collected many valuable resources to use in my classroom. Many educators shared lesson ideas and collaborated on ways to engage students with nature. I have already used some of the knowledge I gained about nature journaling in my classroom this year. I also have other plans to take my classroom on a "Bio Blitz" outside to try and discover and journal about as many species as possible. Another activity I would like to try during our first unit is a micro field trip. Students use a piece of string to make a field trip for an ant or small insect. They record the map in their journal and identify all the objects the ant will pass including both biotic and abiotic factors in the environment. I also have plans to integrate some of the technology resources from the Audubon site later this year. The Audubon Bird Migration Explorer would tie in perfectly with our unit about how species adapt to their environment and migrate for specific purposes. "Survival By Degrees," another Audubon resource, will be used later in the year to illustrate the effects of climate change on a species. There are so many other resources I have tucked in my back pocket for use this year.

Lastly, I'd like to mention the accommodations. The camp was very clean. The rooms were cozy and having a roommate is a fun way to get to know someone. But, the best part of the accommodations was the view. It was impossible to look out any window and not feel inspired by nature. Hog Island is an amazing respite that will continue to motivate educators to share outdoor experiences and connections with nature with their students. My time at Hog Island will not be forgotten, and I deeply appreciate the Maryland Ornithological Society for affording me this remarkable opportunity.

Colleen McCandless

My name is Rachel Harbert, and I am a naturalist at Marshy Point Nature Cente. I have worked at Marshy Point since October 2019. In addition to working part-time at Marshy Point, I also work within the Maryland House of Delegates, which allows me the opportunity to work with environmental organizations that advocate for policies that protect the environment. I also spend all of my free time thinking about birds. When I can't be out looking at birds, I can be found reading field guides, perusing Ebird, playing Birdie or Wingspan, reading a Scott Weidensaul book (more on that later), taking the online Cornell Ornithology course, or telling my very patient friends and family bird fun facts. My newest party trick is telling anyone and everyone about the American Flamingos I saw in Pennsylvania. While I greatly enjoy all of this, actually looking at birds will always be my favorite thing to do. It is such a treat to watch a bird do many behaviors; I love to watch why a bird has specific features and how they impact its feeding, displaying, habitat choice, etc. Birding has brought me beautiful experiences with fascinating animals, friends that understand and match my excitement, and unending wonder for the environment around me. Most amazingly, birding has brought me to places that are seemingly too beautiful to be real, including Stone Harbor in New Jersey, Prime Hook NWR, and the most magical of them all, Hog Island Audubon Camp.

I was fortunate enough to have a wonderful birding buddy to make the drive to Maine along with me, which means my adventure to Hog Island began at 4am in Dundalk, Maryland.

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Our first stop was at Milford Point in Connecticut, where we had the pleasure of seeing Piping Plovers which had hatched only five minutes before we arrived. Adorable does not even begin to describe how they looked as they figured out how their legs worked. Little did I know, this was only a warm-up to the trip I would have. Due to some heavy rain, we skipped some planned stops and went straight to Odiorne Point in New Hampshire. This is where we found my first lifer of the trip, a Common Eider. This was very exciting, as Common Eiders have consistently evaded me, despite many attempts to see them in the Mid-Atlantic; I'd even seen a King Eider first on an attempt to find a Common Eider. In addition to this, I was very excited because these Common Eiders had chicks with them. I had another exciting first at Odiorne Point; I had never seen kelp before!

We continued on to spend the night in Augusta, Maine, where we saw Cedar Waxwings in the parking lot of our hotel. After waking up bright and early the next morning to make our way to Red's Eats for a lobster roll, my birding partner and I split ways as he dropped me off at the pier for Hog Island, and he went on to continue birding elsewhere in Maine. Upon arriving on the island, I was able to meet the leaders of the camp. I was starstruck to be meeting the people whom I had read so much about and whose work I truly admired. Scott Weidensaul, Sara Morris, Catherine Hamilton, Anthony Hill, and Angelika Nelson seemed larger than life, but I quickly learned that they were just as excited as I was to be at Hog Island, and they were more than happy to share their endless knowledge and answer my endless questions.

The first day of camp was dedicated to meeting the people who would quickly become my friends and to learning the history of Hog Island. As an environmental educator, learning that Hog Island originated as a camp for teachers was comforting. The next morning, we got an introduction to the island itself with an early morning bird walk. Here I learned that the Fish Crows I was hearing were actually young American Crows, which hadn't yet found their pitch. We then went on a boat tour of the harbor, where we got very exciting views of a Roseate Tern. Their bright white color is truly remarkable. The rest of the day was spent birding Hog Island, meeting the resident artist, and learning more of the history of the island. Each day ended with a lecture from one of the camp leaders, where I was able to observe each of their program styles in addition to gathering as much information as possible.

The next day was the most sensational; we were heading to Eastern Egg Rock Island to see the Atlantic Puffins. The charismatic puffins were more than I ever could have imagined. Luckily, we had a bit of a rainy day, which drew all the puffins, Black Guillemots, and Common Terns into the island. We were also able to get views of Arctic Terns, with remarkably tiny legs, and even some Wilson's Storm Petrels, which demonstrated their dancing behavior. We then landed on Allen Island, where artist Andrew Wyeth lived with his wife Betsy, but which is now owned by Colby College. Sara Morris led us in banding birds, and I was able to release the Black-throated Green Warbler we banded.

The next morning, we went to Hidden Valley Nature Center, where we saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker feeding its young in the nest. I also got a lifer Least Flycatcher! Our final day of adventure brought us to Great Salt Bay Farm Wildlife Preserve. Here we found Bobolinks, and I had the opportunity to walk alongside Scott Weidensaul, which allowed me to ask every question about their field marks that I could possibly conjure. Upon our return to Hog Island, those of us from Maryland used our free afternoon to take our new friends into the water before we had our lobster dinner. We all suited up to do some deep water wading at the beach, where we caught Green Crabs, Silversides, aquatic snails, and a Horseshoe Crab. You can take the girl out of Maryland, but she will certainly still find crabs to catch.

I would be remiss to not mention Dendroica Memorial Day and International Guillemot Appreciation Day observed, which were celebrations like no other. Some honorable mention, non-bird animals include Harbor Seals, a Grey Seal, a Meadow Vole, a breaching Atlantic Sturgeon, a Spotted Salamander, Harbor Porpoises, and my personal favorite, a North American Porcupine. With over ten lifers, wonderful people, and unimaginable experiences, this trip was a beaming success.

Over the past four years I've spent working at Marshy Point, I have put on countless programs, run summer camps, helped with nature pre-k, taken care of our bountiful collection of ambassador animals, and completed any number of unpredictable tasks that come up in the course of working at a park and nature center. One of my favorite tasks has always been working with our Black Vulture named Dumplin. His fun, social personality is always contagious. This also means that my favorite program to offer is our International Vulture Awareness Day. Watching the lectures each evening at Hog Island provided inspiration for bird specific programs like these. Each lecturer had a different style of presentation, and I could include these techniques in programs at Marshy Point.

While these stylistic elements will certainly add to the way I run programs, the information and birding techniques were the most impactful part of my Hog Island Experience. While programs are the flashiest part of my employment, I spend much more time casually answering questions from visitors during conversation. Any amount of information I can absorb will make these interactions more meaningful for the visitors, and Hog Island provided no limit of new information. Also, birding with a large group of people of different experience levels provided me with new ways to point out a bird to multiple people, which can often be the most difficult part of leading a hike. Having the experience to be a participant in a group led by phenomenal ornithologists will make me a better leader in many aspects.

Rachel Harbert

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Hello everyone! My name is Jillian Kane and I work at Eden Mill Nature Center in Harford County, Maryland, and I was chosen as a scholarship recipient for the Audubon Hog Island Camp in July of 2023. What an incredible week it was!

When I arrived, a beautiful fog had floated onto Muscongus Bay, and when the island finally revealed itself it was a wonder of beautiful conifers and seaside rocks! That first day was an exploration of the island itself, the history of the Audubon Society, and the joy of birding felt around the world. The most rewarding thing I experienced throughout the week was getting to enjoy this beautiful place with other educators and instructors who had the same passion for the outdoors that I have. To discuss big ideas about how to get more people in touch with nature with others who have the same desire was refreshing and invigorating! Our trip out to Eastern Egg Rock to see the Atlantic Puffins and the story of their revival was so interesting to myself and my other group members that it became our slogan for the week. "Don't be afraid to be the first puffin on the island." It encouraged us to try new things and to come back to our daily lives with a new perspective on how other people see the world around us and how we can be examples for others in this field. One of the instructors gave a fascinating lecture on the first day about what it means to be a bird. He discussed everything from salt glands to feather orientation and I have never learned so much in such a short period of time. He gave me so many ideas to bring back to my programs that will truly change the way I teach about birds!

My first plan to utilize the information I have learned at Hog Island is to offer a home school series called "Beautiful Birds" for the month of October, to instill that love of ornithology from a young age! During this month, I hope to get the kids to participate in Hawk Watch as well! I will also incorporate this knowledge into my Owl Prowl programs I run in the winter at Eden Mill, as I learned a few tips on how to get my participants more involved in the nighttime programs!

Overall, I want to extend a thank you to the members of the board of the Maryland Ornithological Society for this incredible experience. I truly value and cherish the memories I made at Hog Island and the knowledge I was fortunate enough to bring back to my home state of Maryland..

Thank you and happy birding!

Jillian Kane

In June 2023, I was lucky enough to receive a scholarship from MOS to attend the Field Ornithology session at Audubon's Hog Island Camp in coastal Maine. This was a dream come true, as I had heard about this program ten years prior and it had always been high up on my list. I'd like to share with you, the reader, a bit about my experience there in hope that you will want to attend yourself.

We arrived in a small coastal town called Damariscotta, Maine and were picked up by a passenger van which whisked us away to a small dock and boat to hop across to Hog Island. It might as well have been the Hogwarts Express to Hog(warts) Island! Immediately, I felt a sense of place among my people. The rustic maritime feel of the island is hard to ignore. After settling in and getting to know my fellow campers, I knew this would be a week I'd remember for the rest of my life.

The instructors were nothing short of fantastic. Each had something unique to offer the group. Scott Wiedensaul, an amazing storyteller, Pulitzer Prize finalist, and curious naturalist whose experience at Hog Island reaches back decades; Dr. Sara Morris, an ornithology professor at Ursinus College with a passion for Guillemots; Angelika Nelson, an ornithologist from Germany specializing in the fascinating study of bird bioacoustics; and Catherine Hamilton, an incredibly gifted artist and naturalist who opened my eyes to sketching again. They knew exactly how to reach campers of all ages, experience, and skill levels and get all of us thinking and having new ideas on what it means to be a birder.

The island itself is a magical wonderland. The spruce forest sprouting with lichens and mosses, clearings of hay-scented fern, little sphagnum bogs, and tidal coves all with the soundtrack of Blackburnian Warblers, Northern Parulas, Black-capped Chickadees, Cedar Waxwings, Common Terns are accessible in a short hike and provide moments of solitude when desired.

Of course, the boat excursion to Eastern Egg Rock was the most anticipated activity of all and did not disappoint. We learned all about Dr. Steve Kress and his passion to bring back breeding Atlantic Puffins and other seabirds to the island and region. It's an incredible success story. Despite being absolutely soaked on the ride over, our excitement did not wane and I audibly gasped when I saw my first Atlantic Puffin! Soon, we saw dozens of these cute little flying footballs like busy bees flying to and fro their colony on this small and rugged rocky isle. It was too early for them bringing back mouthfuls of fish to their young, but we did observe them bringing back nesting material; each strand of seaweed required a climb up the craggy cliffside. We were also graced with an Arctic Tern and a family of Common Eiders- it was inspiring, if not stressful, to watch the week old ducklings navigating the dangerous surf. Later that day, we explored Allen Island (once home to famous painter Andrew Wyeth) and did some bird banding. Some campers hadn't had this experience before, and it was touching to watch their faces fill with joy as they released warblers, thrushes, and sparrows back to the forest.

Being there brought back so many great memories of sleep away camp as a kid, and I couldn't have asked for better people to meet. I still keep in touch with several of them a year later. Go to Hog Island and feel an incredible sense of community. Learn from some of the best minds and soak it all in. You absolutely won't regret it.

Matt Felperin, Roving Naturalist, NOVA Parks
Director, Patuxent Bird Club MOS Chapter
mfelperin@nvrpa.org; novaparks.com

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Hello, my name is Jessica Furr. I am Park Ranger Master naturalist with the Anne Arundel county recreation and parks department. I was very lucky to be chosen to receive a scholarship through local MOS chapter for the 2023 Educators Weeks at Hog Island in Maine.

Thank you to the Montgomery County Bird club and the Anne Arundel Bird club, and a big special thanks to Anna Urciolo. This was an amazing, once in a lifetime experience, and I will treasure the memories for years to come.

It all started on a foggy spring morning, when I arrived to the shores of Bremen, Maine, after the long drive from Annapolis. I was so excited as I pulled into the boat launch site for Hog Island and seeing all the Atlantic Puffin decor. After parking on the mainland, I joined a few other campers as we stepped onto the ferry to Hog Island.

As the ferry boat got closer we could finally see through the morning fog, and the magnificent, beautiful silhouette of Hog Island camp became clear. As we stepped off the boat, we were greeted and given the warmest welcome by the staff. Immediately once on land, I could feel my senses filling up with the smell of salt in the air, all the wonderful bird calls, and marine life along the shore. There was also an amazing observation touch tank filled with living lobsters, crabs, and crustaceans of all types right on the dock.

My favorite part was the science lab that was clearly visible as we were unloading our luggage onto the island. I could immediately see preserved puffin specimens, many microscopes and other miscellaneous scientific equipment. All the exposure and opportunity to explore the lab with hands-on experience working with the equipment was encouraged.

I knew this was going to be an amazing trip with lots of opportunities to learn and sharpen my skills as a naturalist. The display and amount of history and work that has been put into this facility is amazing.

I met and joined all the other fellow campers, amazing teachers, camp leaders, and the superintendent of the island. All campers felt we were given warm welcomes and wonderful accommodations, which were modest but which came with priceless views. The nature and the beautiful surrounding waterfront was breathtaking.

A lot of thought, care and hard work was put into every single detail, including beautiful meals, wonderful education programs, and of course, the reason we all chose to be there was for our shared love of nature and birds. There is also something deeper that I took away from this trip. I found the trip incredibly healing. Nature has a way of definitely grounding and healing, recharging you in ways that nothing else seems to be able to. This " nature healing effect" seemed to be a shared theme with the other campers. The magic of the island and just immersing myself in nature gave recharge, sense of happiness, and a much needed reset.

This trip was much needed after a busy year with tremendous heartbreak and growth. Recently, I had lost my stepfather, Matthew O'Neill. With life's high-speed flow and all of the planning that came after the loss, I was unaware that I had stopped being able to properly grieve. This trip was more needed than I could have ever realized. It really helped me get through a lot of the heartache and to process things better. I did not realize how disconnected I was from feeling emotions until I got on the island and was able to slow down and ground myself while being in nature.

I shared a lot of common experiences with others that had been through a lot, and not only did they gain a lot of knowledge from this trip, but they also felt the experience to be healing.

I felt the focus of the trip was to enhance and increase my skills as an educator Master naturalist and Park Ranger, but I couldn't help but feel there was so much more. There was a real peace and quiet there that seemed to enhance and turn up the volume on nature. There were little interruptions of technology, so nature felt so much closer. It was a good reminder that we're all part of nature not removed from it.

There was a common thread that tied all the attendees together, we all of shared a deep love for nature and what to continue to share that love with others. All the attendees and staff shared a love of things that are wild and free, especially birds.

During the trip there were several excursions and opportunities to see these beautiful creatures and their natural environments. I gained much knowledge and many wonderful lessons that I have been able to take back and share with my community and staff, and one of the biggest things that I took away from my trip was how important nature to all our health. Being disconnected and busy, it is very important to take time to slow down and be an observer in this beautiful world and enjoy our earth.

Hog Island definitely fills up your senses, rejuvenates your creative abilities, and puts fresh air back into your lungs. I came home reinvigorated and more excited about my career path. It was a once in a lifetime experience and a wonderful gift of memories that I will treasure forever. I hope that moe visitors will be able to share the wonderful experiences that Hog Island can offer.

Jessica Furr

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Chan Robbins' CBC Records Disposition Plan 30 May 2024

by Phil Davis and David Bridge

Background

The modern era's "godfather" of Maryland birding, Chander S. Robbins, passed away in 2017 at the age of 98 after breaking ground in the field of ornithology for more than 70 years, since 1934. Chan worked at the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) at the Laurel, MD Patuxent Research Refuge since 1945 and maintained an office there until his death. Chan innovated many new research techniques for recording bird observations and population studies. More biographical information on Chan can be found at the US Geological Survey (USGS) Eastern Ecological Science Center (EESC) [formerly Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC)] web site here ... https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/robbins/bio.cfm

Since Chan passing, a small team of volunteers (Dave Bridge, Phil Davis, and Deanna Dawson) have been reviewing, organizing, and indexing Chan's records in preparation for their transfer to and archival at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV.

Chan's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) Records

Maryland CBCs were very important to Chan for many reasons. He organized, participated, analyzed, and summarized results from hundreds of Maryland CBCs beginning in 1946; however, these herculean efforts do not necessarily make these records US Government archive-worthy. The NCTC has taken the position that CBC records are not official USWFS records and do not fall under their purview. Bridge and Davis have reviewed and organized Chan's CBC records. The NCTC has allowed us to retain anything that is appropriate or dispose of anything that is not scientifically significant. We discarded blanks forms, duplicates, and commercial brochures; and we

copied/retained a very few documents we deemed to be of significance to MOS history, in general, and the MD/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC), in specific. MD/DCRC-related records have already been recorded and deposited in the MD/DCRC data repository. Finding Aid Chan's CBC records comprise four document boxes. We created a detailed finding aid for these CBC records, which appears at the end of this article. The finding aid identifies which Maryland historical CBCs are included and the approximate number of inches of paper for each. Most CBC files are not very thick; however, counts that Chan was most involved with (e.g., Southern Dorchester, Ocean City) include the most records. Approach The MOS has no resources to accept and store these records. Therefore, we propose to offer these records to individuals who might find an interest in them. Otherwise, EESC will likely dispose of these records

Approach

The MOS has no resources to accept and store these records. Therefore, we propose to offer these records to individuals who might find an interest in them. Otherwise, EESC will likely dispose of these records.

We don't believe there are any "smoking guns" in these records; however, historians may find factoids of interest or tidbits to fill in some historical blanks or to serve as fodder for articles for local chapter newsletters, etc. Historical maps related to individual CBCs may include information on original count circle centers, boundaries, etc. We think that many (perhaps all?) current compilers maintain historical CBC tally data used to flag count highs, lows, first times, etc. If any current compilers do not maintain such historical records, some of earlier printed summary tallies may be helpful. Plan We are offering these records to people with a historical interest using a priority scheme in case multiple people should be interested. Selected recipients can take possession of a CBC's records, review them, retain anything of historical or personal interest, and discard everything else. We are implementing the following steps:

Step 1 First, we offer these historical CBC records first to current Maryland CBC compilers (for counts that are still active).

Step 2

Unclaimed CBC records will next be offered to the officers of the CBC's "home" (or closest) local chapter and/or to members of the local chapter.

Step 3

We will next offer unclaimed historical CBC records to the MOS membership at large, via this general announcement.

Step 4

Finally, via announcements posted to the regional birding community such as the MDBirding email group, we will offer records to non-MOS members who may have an historical interest in reviewing these records before they are discarded.

Contact

Some logistical issues will need to be worked out to transfer these records, but we can deal with them. Anyone with an interest in these records should contact the following us, in parallel (due to travel plans):

Phil Davis pdavis@ix.netcom.com

David Bridge bridgedavid@earthlink.net

World Series of Birding 2024

By George Radcliffe

On Saturday, May 11, twenty-six YMOS students, an MOS team, and a large cadre of parents descended upon Cape May, NJ, for the 41st World Series of Birding. While billed as a competition, the real purpose is to provide an intense cooperative experience where a team works together to find and identify as many species as possible in 24 hours. Equally valuable is an opportunity for each participant to interact with, and learn from, many of the best birders in the country. Maryland certainly left its mark on the competition this year.

YMOS fielded six teams this year, and MOS, for the first time in several years, sent a team into the adult competition. With all former YMOS members, the MOS Frequent Flyers tied for first with a species total of 213. Captained by Alex Wiebe, the team included Kevin Ebert, Daniel Irons, and Jonathan Irons. It was terrific seeing MOS back in the event. In addition, with 100 teams participating, YMOS alums were on teams winning two other adult categories and placing 3rd in the adult all-around category.

The YMOS high school all-state team, captained by WSB veteran Gabe Evans, included Ben McGrew and Zealon Wight-Maier and was coached by YMOS alumnus Aaron Graham. With 190 species, they placed second to the New Jersey team.

The YMOS Carbon-Free team placed first, setting a youth carbon-free record with 148 species found. The YMOS Red Bossbills were captained by Nara Anusonti-Inthra and included team members Cassidy Frazier, Eitan Weisberg, Tyme Anusonti-Inthra, Caleb Kurlantzick, and Moly Dwyer. They beat two adult carbon-free teams and finished only four species behind the winning adult ABA carbon-free team.

YMOS placed first and second in the middle school division. The YMOS No rEgrets set a middle school record with 190 species found. Captained by Roshan Vignarajah, the team included Vitus Li, Sam Taylor, and Andrew Dugas. The second-place YMOS Tern of Events was captained by Will Kania, assisted by Ryan Carr, Cam Hubbert, Karolina Mandell, and Mikey Minkiewicz.

The two YMOS elementary teams placed first and second in their division and would have won the Boundless Energy and Enthusiasm award if there had been one. They traveled together but birded separately, and their scores were both exceptional for teams so young. The YMOS The Empire Shrikes Back tallied 145 species. The team included captain Ethan Lichtig, Leo Prikhodko, and Gavin Hausladen. The YMOS Snap, Grackle, and Pop found 142 species and included captain Teddy Macri, Gavin Qian, Colin Moynihan, and Theo Lanahan.

Of course, this was only possible with the fantastic support of MOS, all the donors, and the parent drivers and mentors. In many ways, it felt like our group took over Cape May. The fantastic support team made everything run smoothly for the scouting days, the Big Day, and the Sunday Awards brunch. The March YMOS Birdathon, which so many of you supported, provided most of the funding for the week.

There are always memorable moments and special bird finds (Swallow-tailed Kite and 30 warbler species), but the most important takeaway from the week is the remarkable cooperation, sharing, and learning. In reality, it is a tremendous learning experience for all. In the words of one youth birder, "I think I learned more in those four days than in the rest of my birding days." YMOS and MOS will return for WSB 42 on May 10, 2025. We're always looking for someone to mentor a team if anyone is interested.

YMOS No rEgrets Student Team Report

by Vitus Li

The World Series of Birding was quite an enjoyable experience. We began scouting by attempting to locate breeding or reliable locations for more difficult species, most of which were already established in provided routes. The other YMOS team, which proved to be our largest competition, shared some good finds with us, such as a Red-breasted Merganser at Heislerville. Due to the traffic caused by the nearby Trump rally, we had to avoid congestion around Wildwood, where a huge rally would be held. This caused us to head for a great location around the Ocean City Welcome Center, where most breeding herons, Piping Plover and Brant, could be found en route to Brigantine NWR.

On the dry-run day of scouting, we decided to stop and plan a new route based on different scouting data instead of finishing our dry-run. We cut all inefficient sites and managed our time to have one spare hour. Our first site, Turkey Point, was flooded on the day, so we had to cut it and go to the second site, which we missed due to faulty navigation. By the time we had lost 45 minutes, we finally went to our first site at 3:45 am and found our target, Sora, and our first species of the day, the Great Blue Heron (surprisingly difficult). We then went to Tuckahoe WMA and found most of our nocturnal species, a bonus King Rail, and a vocal Black-billed Cuckoo in nocturnal flight. We then headed south to Cape Island to view migrants and obtained over 20 species of warblers and our scouting targets. We were met with numerous migrants, as usual, and the island set us up to a breakneck pace with its bounty of birds. We then headed north to a flooded field to obtain a few shorebirds and a surprise American Kestrel. Then, we headed north through several bayshore sites, where we found all bay shorebirds except Red Knot.

We found most expected breeders at Belleplain, which compensated for our falling behind the pace needed. After picking up the birds we scouted at the welcome center, we went north to Brigantine and birded it quickly to catch up to pace. Despite the need for speed, we found all our targets and several lingering ducks, including Pintails and another Red-breasted Merganser. We then headed south to clean up our targets, failing to obtain Cattle Egret and Northern Shoveler. We ended up on the island where several clutch nocturnal flight calls awaited us, including Hermit Thrushes, a Gray-cheeked Thrush, and a Palm Warbler. Nocturnal flight yielded the expected thrushes as it did during scouting. We ended with 190, a decent total for our limited area. This was probably the most fun I have had birding in a long while.

A Parent's Perspective

by Andrea Appleton

The adults may have stumbled from their beds each morning of the 2024 World Series of Birding bleary-eyed and desperate for Wawa, but the Snap, Grackle & Pop members didn't need caffeine: These kids were hopped up on birds! Teddy Macri, Gavin Qian, Colin Moynihan, and Theo Lanahan shared more funny, beautiful, and exciting moments than it's possible to capture in a short write-up. But here are a few that give a sense of the elementary group's camaraderie and passion for birding.

Early on, we decided the kids needed a code word to call out when each had identified a particular species. The team decided that word would be "Pringles." By the day of the competition, the kids were using it constantly. If one remained silent, not having spotted a particular bird, the others would turn to him with concern and ask, "Pringles?"

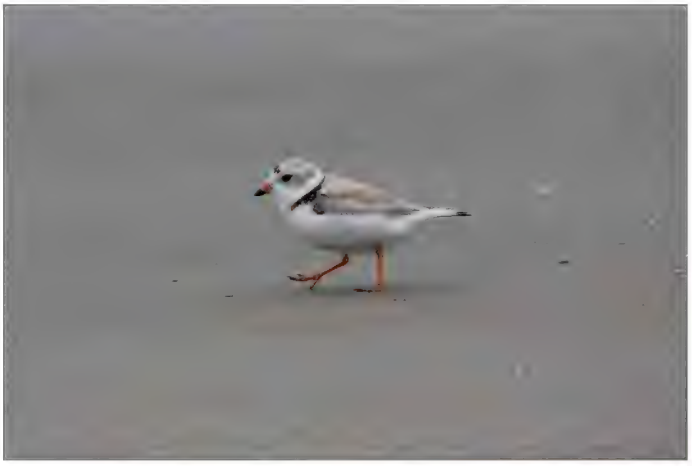
For some members of our team, the trip yielded a bounty of new species. Theo, for instance, accumulated dozens. "That's a lifer!" he'd say. "Write it down, Mom." But Gavin already had an extensive life list. At each unusual sighting, he'd join in with the excitement of the others. Then, as the noise died, he'd say with a rueful smile, "Still not a lifer." So, it was a joy for everyone when Gavin finally got a lifer at Coral Avenue Seawatch on the afternoon of competition day—a White-winged Scoter.

There were lots of joyful moments. One Scouting day, the kids were well ahead of us on a trail at Garrett Family Preserve when they came careening back, squealing with delight about a beautiful Blue Grosbeak. We paused at Belleplain State Forest to coo over a cute flying squirrel. And perhaps the loudest cheers of competition day came when the kids sighted a species that doesn't usually get much love: a Rock Pigeon. It was one of those "easy" birds they just couldn't find. Then, one appeared on a rooftop in Ocean City late in the day. The parents in the trailing car saw it and feared the kids had missed it. They were tired and perhaps not paying attention. Meanwhile, in the lead vehicle, it was, "Rock pigeon! Pringles! Pringles! Pringles! Pringles!"

The whole team showed amazing stamina, but it wasn't willpower that got them through. Colin summed up the general mood this way: "This is literally the best day ever!" After three days of getting up before the sun, climbing in and out of the van countless times, eating snacks in place of meals, and zigzagging all over Cape May in search of elusive birds like the Great Blue Heron--they never found one!--Teddy remarked, "That went by so fast."

YMOS Bird Finds ; WSB, 2024

Photos by Gavin Qian and Hongmei Zhao



Piping Plover

Ruddy Turnstones and Purple Sandpipers

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

White Ibis

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Great Egret with Eggs

MOS Experiences Pura Vida in Costa Rica!

April 5 – 16, 2024

By Marcia Watson

Costa Rica has long been a favored destination of birders, known for its bird diversity – 925 species in a country smaller than West Virginia! – along with excellent ecotourism infrastructure. Over the years, many MOS members have traveled to Costa Rica on tours arranged by chapters or by individual MOS members, but this past spring marked the first time that MOS itself officially sponsored a birding trip to Costa Rica.

Seats sold out quickly as soon as the trip was announced, so MOS travel organizer Maryanne Dolan added a second trip. These two trips used identical itineraries and went back-to-back, March 24-April 4 and April 5-16. Both trips were arranged through Crescentia Expeditions Costa Rica, widely considered to be one of the best tour companies anywhere, and both tours were eminently successful!

All in all, the first tour netted 328 species and the second tour had 290 species. And we experienced the joy of Pura Vida, The Pure Life, which is the unofficial motto of the country. Pura Vida is reflected not only in the birds and birding, but also in the beautiful scenery and lush habitats, the freshly prepared foods, the friendly people, and the peace and quiet.

MOS group on the bus, Ready to Roll!

Photo by Anthony Arce

My husband Gene Scarpulla and I (Baltimore Bird Club) were lucky to get seats on the second tour. Including the two of us, we had eleven travelers in our group: Greg Hardin and Jan Walters (Montgomery Bird Club); Vickie Kwong and Benson Kwong (also Montgomery Bird Club), Vicki MacLean and Rob MacLean (guests from Massachusetts), Karen O'Steen and Jim O'Steen (Howard County Bird Club), and Meg Parry (Kent County Bird Club). Our expert guide was Anthony (Tony) Arce, one of the top eBirders in Costa Rica, and Alberto Vargas served as our driver, steering us with skill along the twisting mountain roads. Our group of travelers was incredibly congenial, and we all bonded quickly, forming a team that watched out for each other everywhere we went.

Vickie Kwong quickly made herself known as a dedicated bird photographer, and the rest of us were continually amazed at the shots she managed to get. Her diligence and persistence were truly remarkable, and it was fun to watch her carefully positioning herself for the best angle when birds were all too often obscured by vegetation. We all benefited from the bird ID checks provided by Vickie's excellent photos, which she generously shared on a running basis through a cloud-based folder.

Not only was the birding great, but we all enjoyed the excellent lodgings and delicious meals. Costa Rica is known for generous servings of food, and all the food is freshly prepared – no processed foods in sight. Fresh fruit and fruit juices were at every meal, along with fresh vegetables and grilled meats and fish. And of course, the Costa Rican national dish, rice and beans, was offered everywhere, morning, noon, and night, sometimes with variations that included chicken, fish, or shrimp. We all agreed that we had a much healthier diet in Costa Rica than at home. The fruit smoothies offered at several places are worth a special mention.

Our tour took us from the capital city of San Jose, located in the Central Valley of the country, south and east through the mountains to the lowlands of the Pacific slope. We stayed at five ecolodges during our 12-day trip and used two urban hotels for our arrival and departure days.

Map of lodging locations for Costa Rica tour.

The ecolodges in Costa Rica typically have a small central building that houses the office, a dining room (usually with no side walls, just a roof), and maybe a bar or small gift shop. Guests stay in cabins that are scattered around the grounds, reached by foot-trails. Most of the lodges have either hummingbird feeders or fruit feeders, or both, and there is also great birding along the trails on the grounds.

MOS Experiences Pura Vida in Costa Rica!

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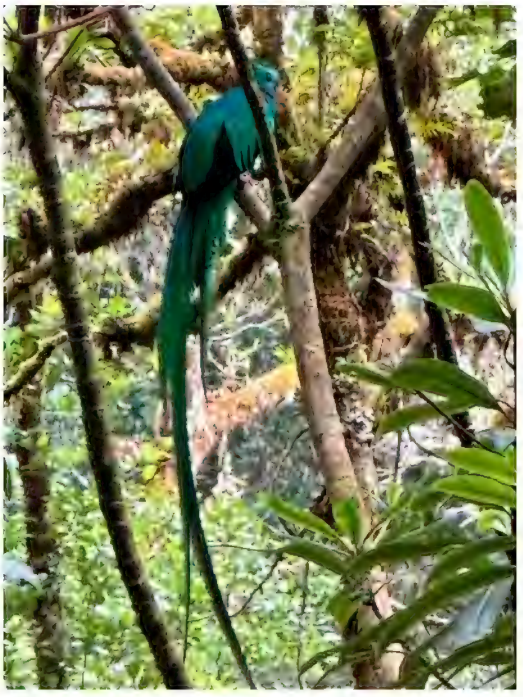
Each of our lodgings had its own attractions and strengths. We arrived in Costa Rica to the Hotel Bougainvillea in San Jose, a place famous among birders for its extensive, beautifully landscaped gardens, where many birders score their first Costa Rican signature birds such as Squirrel Cuckoo, Lesson's Motmot, Hoffman's Woodpecker, Rufous-naped Wren, and Clay-colored Thrush. Here we had excellent views of a Mottled Owl, roosting in the vegetation, and we were entertained by fly-over flocks of raucous Orange-chinned and Crimson-fronted Parakeets. Several of our birders have a shout-out to Bougainvillea for its combination of excellent birding on the grounds, comfortable rooms, and delicious food.

Mottled Owl, Photo by Vickie Kwong

We then spent two nights at Savegre Hotel Natural Reserve & Spa, in the central mountains at an altitude of 7,200 feet, providing access to high elevation birding in prime Resplendent Quetzal territory. The quetzal, one of the iconic birds of Costa Rica, is highly sought-after because of the male's spectacular iridescent plumage and long-streamered tail, and we saw them right on the grounds of the hotel. A walk down a mountain lane yielded easy looks at a male attending a nest, and a female came in to a tree right off the balcony of the dining room, providing arm's length views. Savegre Hotel's grounds are lushly planted and in addition to the quetzals, there were hummingbirds galore at the feeders, the guest rooms were comfortable and spacious, and the food was plentiful and excellent.

Our next lodging, at Esquinas Rainforest Lodge, positioned us in the heart of the lowland rainforest, and the location came with air temperatures in the 90s and humidity to match, a big change from the cool 70s in the mountains. Esquinas is graced by a small pond, filled with water-lilies and other blooming plants, right next to the central office and dining area; the pond attracts birds and other animals all day long,



Resplendant Quetzal, Photo by Vicki MacLean

including agoutis (small Central American rodents related to guinea pigs), Gray-cowled Wood Rails, and assorted lizards and frogs. We were enchanted to find a small group of Greater White-lined Bats roosting in a quiet corner of the open-sided dining area. We were warned by Esquinas staff to always carry a light at night when walking the paths to and from our rooms, because of the presence of snakes, including some venomous ones. But in fact, none of us saw a snake at any time, neither at Esquinas or anywhere else on our trip – good or bad, depending on your perspective! The birds on the Esquinas grounds were just spectacular – big bold showy birds such as Crested Guan, Great Curassow, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Baird's Trogon, Lesson's Motmot, Fiery-billed Aracari, Yellow-throated Toucan, and Scarlet-rumped Cacique. On the little side, there were several hummingbird species, including Bronzy Hermit, Band-tailed Barbthroat, Long-billed Hermit, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Scaly-breasted Hummingbird, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, and Charming Hummingbird. There were also many skulkers such as Chestnut-backed Antbird, Black-faced Antthrush, and Orange-collared and Red-capped Manakins.

Moving on to higher ground, we were relieved to get somewhat of a respite from the heat at our next lodging, the Las Cruces Biological Station, in the Pacific slope foothills at 4,000 feet, quite near the border with Panama. Las Cruces turned out to be the favorite lodging of about half of our group: we loved the views and the ease of seeing birds. The guest rooms here are built for visiting scientists, and are somewhat spartan, but still comfortable and impeccably clean, and the guest rooms have balconies with spectacular views of the surrounding foothills and valleys. The world-class Wilson Botanical Garden is situated on the grounds of Las Cruces, and features trails that wind past giant stands of bamboo and into stream valleys lined with lush vegetation.

MOS Experiences Pura Vida in Costa Rica!

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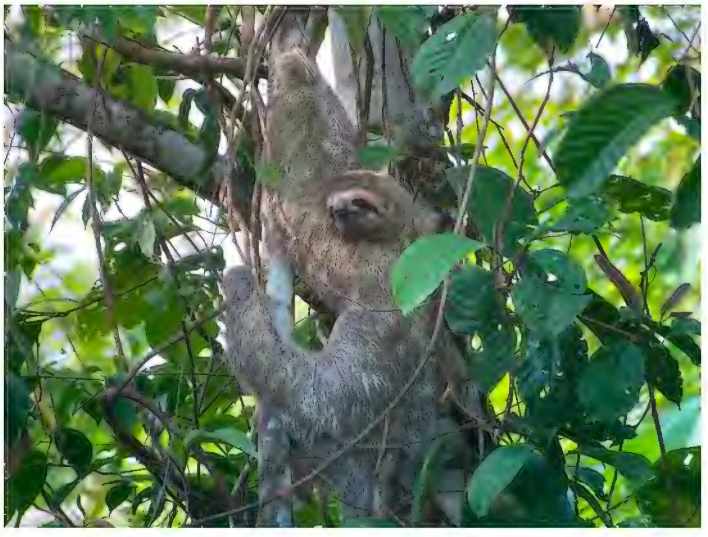
Crested Guan, Photo by Marcia Watson

The Biological Station has a bird-viewing patio area, with a concrete wall serving as a simple fruit feeding station that attracts colorful birds such as Thick-billed Euphonia, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Blue-gray Tanager, Palm Tanager, Golden-hooded Tanager, Silver-throated Tanager, and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis. On our final morning at Las Cruces, a pair of Yellow-throated Toucans perched together in the top of a tall tree above the patio, and engaged in a back-and-forth duet of raucous, hoarse calls.

For our next lodging we traveled to the Osa Peninsula, widely regarded as one of the most pristine locations in Costa Rica. The peninsula, which juts into the Pacific Ocean, has few roads and no big cities and contains one of the largest unbroken tracts of lowland rainforest in Central America. We stayed at Danta Corcovado Lodge, an attractive place with a playful, quirky, and whimsical vibe. "Danta" is the local name for tapir, those large enigmatic forest animals that look somewhat like a cross between a pig and a hippo. Statues and images of tapirs were scattered around the open-sided dining air and bar, which has beautiful gleaming hardwood floors. In order to avoid damage to the floors, everyone goes barefoot, even the wait staff, resulting in a relaxed feel. The attractive furnishings in the dining area are all made of natural local woods, using what is called "live edge," that is, a natural edge, sometimes still holding the bark from the tree. The whimsicality continues in the spacious guest cabins, each of which has its own animal logo; Gene and I stayed in "Titi," the local name for Squirrel Monkey, and our bathroom, built with stucco walls to look like a limestone cave, featured a couple of small sculptures of Titis running up the wall and peering down into the shower. Gene particularly liked the dawn "serenades" of the resident Howler Monkeys – he thought it sounded like we were in Jurassic Park. At Danta Corcovado, we were

Danta Corcovado Guest Room. Photo by Marcia Watson

treated to excellent views of Scarlet Macaws, Red-lored Parrots, Orange-chinned Parakeets, and Brown-hooded Parrots. Everyone was mesmerized by a Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth in a tree near the lodge parking area. It was there throughout our stay, moving only a few inches. In fact, our guide Tony told us that sloths only use three or four trees in their entire lifetimes, coming to the ground only about once a week to defecate.



Three-toed Sloth; Photo by Marcia Watson

Our last countryside hotel was El Pelicano Mountain Lodge, in the foothills at 4,400 feet elevation, situated on the way back to San Jose. We stayed there just one night; the main attraction at this smaller place was the sure-bet Snowy-bellied Hummingbird that came every day to feed in the gardens. The Snowy-bellied has a limited range, and was not present at our other locations, so it was wonderful to see them right outside our rooms. Then we traveled back to the San Jose area for our departure, spending our final night at Hotel Robledal, which has a modest garden featuring the more typical birds of Costa Rica.

MOS Experiences Pura Vida in Costa Rica!

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But wait – all the aforementioned birds were merely on the grounds of our lodgings! We made daytrips into the surrounding countryside to various birding hotspots, in search of endemics and rarities and habitat specialists. On three occasions, we met with local people who are engaged in conservation work, and they took us to see the special birds in their project areas.

First up was Ernesto Carman, an American ex-pat who is working on habitat recovery for the Cabanis's Ground Sparrow, a Costa Rican endemic that has been declining because of habitat loss. Ernesto also has a project partnering with local farmers growing chayote (also known as christophine, an edible plant in the gourd family), using trellises that cover whole fields. On one farm, Hook-billed Kites have taken up residence and are devouring snails that eat the chayote plants. The kites provide a valuable service to the farmers, and Ernesto's project is encouraging the relationship.

Hook-billed Kite perched on Chayote Vines,
Photo by Vickie Kwong

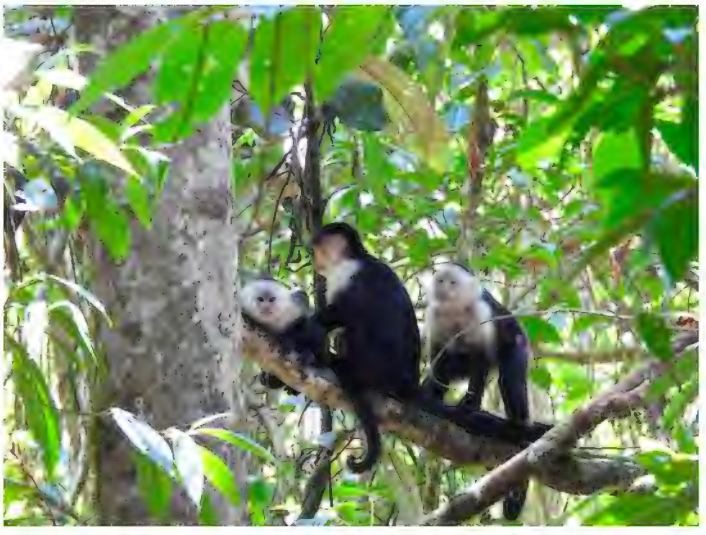
On another day, we were taken to a private woodland owned by Del Monte Corporation to see a rare Rosy Thrush-Tanager, guided by a man who is working with the company to protect the birds' habitat. We stood just below the bird, watching him singing in a small sapling, with his mate hidden in the nearby vegetation.

Another conservation project stop was with a group of young people at La Cotinga Biological Station, where they are working to restore native plants and thus bolster habitat for birds and other wildlife.

A special treat was visiting Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary, the home of the late ornithologist Alexander Skutch, who died in 2004, just a few days short of his 100th birthday. Skutch was born in Baltimore and earned a doctorate in botany from Johns Hopkins. He spent most of his adult life in the tropics,

Rosy Thrush-tanager, Photo by Marcia Watson

working for fruit growing companies, and settled in Costa Rica in 1941. Although a botanist by training, he became an eminent ornithologist, publishing over 200 papers and books on birds, including a field guide to the birds of Costa Rica. Our walk on the grounds of the Skutch homestead was made memorable by a lively troupe of White-faced Capuchin monkeys that escorted us along the trail.



White-faced Capuchins, Photo by Vickie Kwong

Other notable day-trips was a visit to a communication tower site high in the mountains, above the tree-line at about 11,500 feet, where the habitat, called paramo, consists of low windswept shrubs that look superficially like sagebrush – all gray-greens and browns and tans. Here our target species were high altitude specialists: Timberline Wren, Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Sooty Thrush, and Volcano Junco. The birds did not disappoint!

While on the Osa peninsula, we drove to Playa Colibri, a mangrove beach along the Golfo Dulce, the large bay that separates Osa from the mainland. Here we picked up some good water-oriented birds: Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Ruddy Turnstone, Sandwich Tern, Brown Pelican, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Western Cattle Egret, White Ibis, Osprey, and the Mangrove subspecies of Yellow Warbler.

MOS Experiences Pura Vida in Costa Rica!

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One rainy misty afternoon, early in our tour, we had lunch at Miriam's Café, located in the mountains near the Savegre Hotel. Miriam's provides world-class birding in comfort: it's perched on the side of a hill and features numerous hummingbird feeders and fruit feeders off a little deck that looks out over the hillside. The hummingbirds come face-to-face with you, and there was an ever-changing display of Lesser Violetears, Talamanca Hummingbirds, Fiery-throated Hummingbirds, White-throated Mountain-gems, and even Volcano Hummingbird, not to mention the visitors to the fruit feeders and surrounding vegetation: Emerald-Toucanet, Acorn Woodpecker, Torrent Tyrannulet, Mountain Thrush, Clay-colored Thrush, Sooty Thrush, Sooty-capped Chlorospingus, Rufous-collared Sparrow, Large-footed Finch, Yellow-thighed Brushfinch, Tennessee Warbler, Flame-colored Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue-gray Tanager, and Slaty Flowerpiercer, among others. Here we had a vivid reminder of home – a male Baltimore Oriole perched on the top of a tall tree, his orange breast glowing against a backdrop of fog-shrouded foliage.

Left to right: Fiery-throated Hummingbird, Talamanca Hummingbird, White-throated Mountain Gem. Photo by Marcia Watson.

Another little restaurant, Mirador Valle del General, supplied another standout hummingbird feeder experience on the last full day of our trip. The hummingbird spectacle included Brown Violetear, Green-crowned Brilliant, White-throated Mountain-gem, Scintillant Hummingbird, Violet Sabrewing, White-tailed Emerald, and Rufous-tailed Hummingbird. Here there was also a dramatic show put on by at least three Swallow-tailed Kites cruising the thermals above the valley below the restaurant, occasionally thrilling us by circling close to our lookout deck.

Northern Emerald-toucanet, Photo by Marcia Watson

Baltimore Oriole, Photo by Marcia Watson

One day, we stopped at a little park in the center of the town of Paraiso and found a pair of Tropical Screech-Owls, nestled together in a tree, oblivious to the people playing checkers

Tropical Screech Owls. Photo by Vickie Kwong

MOS Experiences Pura Vida in Costa Rica!

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below them. Across the street from the park, a Barn Owl was roosting in a palm tree next to a church, sleeping soundly despite the constant squawks of a group of Crimson-fronted Parakeets all around him.

Barn Owl, Photo by Vickie Kwong

Crimson-fronted Parakeet, Photo by Vickie Kwong

A bridge over the Rio Rincon was one of those places where there were so many birds, one didn't know where to look next. Standing at the bridge for just 90 minutes, we nabbed 62 species of both land and water birds, including Smooth-billed Ani, Northern Jacana, Magnificent Frigatebird, Bare-throated Tiger-Heron, Roadside Hawk, Gray-lined Hawk, Baird's Trogon, Lesson's Motmot, both Ringed and Amazon Kingfishers, Fiery-billed Aracari, Yellow-throated Toucan, Red-crowned Woodpecker, Red-rumped Woodpecker, Collared Forest-Falcon, both Crested and Yellow-headed Caracaras, a bonanza of

Yellow-throated Toucans, Photo by Marcia Watson

Orange-chinned Parakeets, White-crowned Parrots, Red-lored Parrot, Mealy Parrot, Scarlet Macaw, Yellow-billed Cotinga, both Black-crowned and Masked Tityras, Mangrove Swallow, Gray-breasted Martin, Southern Rough-winged Swallow, Riverside Wren, Red-breasted Meadowlark, both Yellow-billed and Scarlet-rumped Caciques, Shiny and Bronzed Cowbirds, Blue-black Grosbeak, and Blue Dacnis.

Lesson's Motmot, Photo by Vickie Kwong

Our group's end result of 290 species for the trip included 11 species of pigeons and doves; 24 species of hummingbirds; 15 species of vultures, kites, and hawks (including King Vulture); 4 species of owls; Resplendent Quetzal plus 3 trogons and a motmot; Northern Emerald-Toucanet, Fiery-billed Aracari, and Yellow-throated Toucan; 8 species of woodpeckers; two falcon species and two caracara species; 10 species of parrots and parakeets, including Scarlet Macaw; 6 assorted species of antbirds; 11 species of woodcreepers and foliage-gleaners; 3 manakin species; 35 species of flycatcher types; 6 vireo species; 11

MOS Experiences Pura Vida in Costa Rica!

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wren species; 9 thrush species; 5 euphonias and finches; 11 sparrows species; 11 species of blackbirds, oropendolas, and caciques; 14 warbler species (including some migrants that we know from Maryland, such as Tennessee and Chestnut-sided); and 32 species of grosbeaks, tanagers, seedeaters, and saltators. There were a lot of unfamiliar birds to learn!

Crimson-collared Tanager, Photo by Vickie Kwong

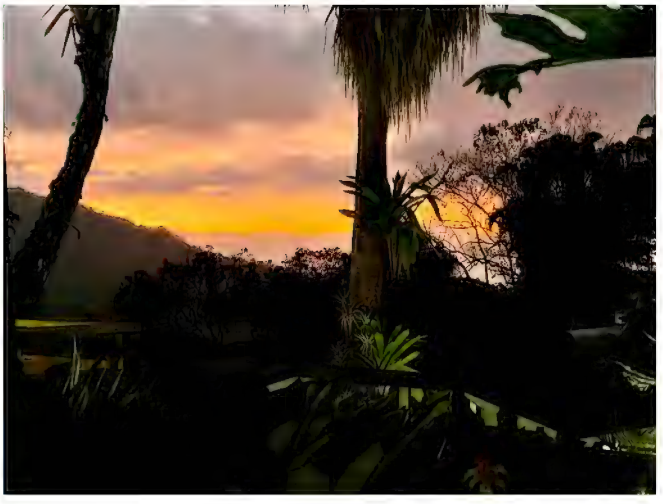
You can view our trip list at https://ebird.org/tripreport/218759, courtesy of our guide Tony, who compiled our eBird checklists. You can also view the list from the other MOS tour group at https://ebird.org/tripreport/221767.

Fiery-billed Aracari, Photo by Vickie Kwong

Vicki Kwong said it for all of us: "Our trip to Southern Costa Rica was well-planned and well-executed. Our guide Anthony was not only knowledgeable in the birds of Costa Rica but also in the history, geography, and plants and other animals of the country which he enthusiastically shared with us. And special thanks to our driver Alberto who took good care of us and made us feel safe riding through some very tight and bumpy roads. Last but not least, the good company of our fellow birders made this trip especially memorable and a great pleasure."

Greg Hardin added: "Adventure of a lifetime. Check it off the bucket list! Tony was the BEST! This was my first major birding trip. If you had told me before I went that it would be fun and easy to get up at 5:15 every morning for pre-breakfast birding, I would not have believed you. What I loved most was falling asleep and waking up to the sounds of the forest. (Even the howler monkey that we were SURE was a werewolf.)"

Since returning home, our group of travelers have vowed to stay in touch, and we recently got together in Columbia (Maryland, not Colombia, South America!) to have dinner and to hear the 19th Street Band, in which Greg plays bass guitar. Next up will be an end-of-summer barbecue. And maybe someday, we'll all get together again on another overseas adventure with MOS.



Sunset at Las Cruces, Photo by Marcia Watson

Striped Basilisk, Photo by Marcia Watson

CHAPTER CHATTER

by Jean Wheeler

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Jack Turner, Photo by Karen Davies

Photography Exhibit at the Arundel Center

By Jack Wildlife aka Jack Turner

Jack Wildlife (aka Jack Turner) hosted a reception for his new photography exhibit, *Avian Ambassadors*, at the Arundel Center on June 5. Anne Arundel County Executive, Steuart Pittman was in attendance and gave remarks on the importance of the arts and protecting the environment. The exhibit featured over 40 original images of birds from Maryland and beyond. The intent of the exhibit was to draw the viewer in and use the beauty of wildlife to encourage people to become better stewards of their environment.

Jack accompanied each photo with a well-written caption that explained the photo, the species, or the story of how the image was created. The Arts Council of Anne Arundel County iwas hosting the exhibit.

The exhibit ran through the end of July at 44 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Jack can be reached at jackwildlifephoto@gmail.com or via his website at https://jackwildlife.square.site/

BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB

On a gorgeous June 15th day, the Birding in Birdland event put on by Baltimore Waterfront Partnership along with the Baltimore Bird Club went very well. Mostly new birders learned the basics of birding, experienced urban birding at the Inner Harbor (Rash Field- we found 16 different species), and learned how to make simple bird feeders to attract birds.

The highlight was the sight of American Goldfinches feasting on thistle, among the other native plants planted in the new Rash Field Park put in specifically to attract birds, butterflies and other species to the harbor area.

We'll be doing an event there again during fall bird migration in September or October so watch out for it. Joe Corcoran

American Goldfinch on native thistle in Baltimore Harbor Photo by Liz Varga

A Rabbit was spotted (Joe Corcoran with arm outstretched), Photo courtesy of the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore

Learning to make simple bird feeders, Photo courtesy of the Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore

CECIL COUNTY

Maryanne Dolan covers the Wade-In for the Cecil Bird Club.

On June 15th, The Cecil Bird Club participated in the 15th annual Cecil County Wade-In. It's a fun-filled day of family activities and outreach programs culminating in the 'wade-in'. Participants don their white sneakers and walk into the Chesapeake Bay until those sneakers are no longer visible. It's an enjoyable way of measuring the health of the Bay.

Ken Drier reports to the Wildlife Habitat Council that all 20 nest boxes at the Woodlawn Reserve near Port Deposit have been occupied by mid May. The majority of the boxes are housing Tree Swallows, followed in number by House Wrens, and then Bluebirds. In the first week of June, snakes had taken up residence in three of the boxes.

Aside from monitoring the nest boxes at Woodlawn, Ken Drier had the opportunity to spend a few days birding the heartland of our great nation. This was on a 5-day trip to Kansas City. Traveling north from there to Iowa, Ken visited Skip Bluff Park. Red-headed Woodpeckers were the most abundant bird in the woods that day. The following day heading in the other direction to Oklahoma and then Arkansas, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers seemed to be on the wires and fences every two miles. Very cool. Journeying to Pea Ridge National Military Park, a Civil War battlefield in Arkansas, Ken found Summer Tanagers everywhere. Finally, a stop in Kansas along the Lewis and Clark Trail and the "Bird Woman Trail" honoring Sacagawea, Lewis and Clark's interpreter, at Kaw Point at the junction of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers, Ken found both Eastern and Western Kingbirds and our very own Baltimore Oriole.

While club members Cathy Carter, Maryanne Dolan and Ken Drier were on a field trip to Fair Hill Natural Resource Area observing the Bobolinks and Meadowlarks the first week in May, they ran into the local park ranger. The Cecil Bird Club had worked hard over the last five years with Fair Hill to document when the Bobolinks' nesting periods typically ends, so that the mowing of the fields does not interfere. One hundred acres have been put in a holding pattern as of last year, with mowing being delayed until August first. This was a big success for the club. The ranger told the group that an adjacent 100 acres had also been included in the delayed mowing. This was done at the same time, but not relayed to the club. What a pleasant surprise. Cecil Bird Club thanks the management of the Fair Hill Natural Resource Area for their commitment to the local ground-nesting species. Ken Drier

HOWARD COUNTY

Birding the Sky Islands of Arizona

My sister, also a birder, and I were delighted when our cousins suggested a reunion in April, in sky Islands of southeastern Arizona--little isolated mountain ranges full of migrating birds.

Stop #1 was in the Huachuca Mountains near the Mexican border. The Ramsey Canyon Nature Preserve yielded many Western warblers: Lucy's, Grace's, Townsend's, Black-throated Gray, and many gorgeous Painted Redstarts. Other highlights included a variety of hummingbirds and flycatchers, as well as Elegant Trogons, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Summer and Western Tanagers.

Black-headed Grosbeak, Photo by Val Swan

The next morning, we woke up to the hoot of a Great Horned Owl and the chatter of a Bewick's Wren. In the lower grasslands we saw Gambel's Quail, Cactus Wren, Phainopepla, Pyrrhuloxia, Bullock's Oriole, and Vermillion Flycatchers. The highlight of a walk along the San Pedro River were the Swainson's and Gray Hawks.

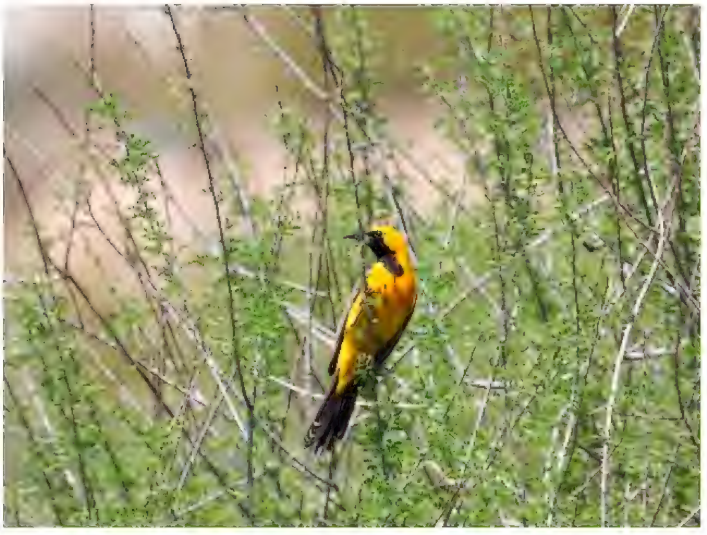
In the foothills and higher elevations of the Chiricahua mountains, stop #2, we enjoyed Greater Roadrunners, Black and Say's Phoebes, Curve-billed Thrasher, a large flock of Lark

Black Phoebe, Photo by Val Swan

Sparrows practically at our feet, Canyon and Spotted Towhees, Lazuli Bunting, Scott's Oriole, Rock Wren, and White-throated Swift. We also really got a kick out of the many Wild Turkeys on the property of the Airbnb – the males were fully displaying their tails, stamping their feet, and jumping around, all while gobbling. Most of the time the females ignored them, but sometimes they didn't. (You can guess the rest).

Leaving the sky Islands, we stopped at the Dankworth Pond State Park, where we were treated to a lovely Hooded Oriole. Many more common birds were seen, too many to list here. My new life list bird total for the trip was 33. We concluded that this corner of the country is not only worth visiting for the birds, but also for the fabulous scenery!

Val Swan and Christine DuBois



Hooded Oriole, Photo by Val Swan

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Jim Moore writes:"I went on an excellent tour of South Asia in April 2024 that began with a few days in eastern India (Assam) and continued on for three weeks in the nearby Himalayan country of Bhutan. Bhutan is unique, sparsely populated Buddhist country whose constitution mandates that at least 60% of the country remain forested in perpetuity. Our group saw a great diversity of wildlife, including the three spectacular high-altitude pheasants (Himalayan Monal, Blood Pheasant, and Satyr Tragopan), Beautiful Nuthatch, Fire-tailed Myzornis, parrotbills, laughingthrushes, sunbirds, Ibisbill, endangered Slender-billed Vulture, White-bellied Heron (one of the rarest birds in the world), and many more. Large mammals were a highlight as well, including the endangered Indian Rhinoceros, Bengal Tiger, and Western Hoolock Gibbon at Assam's famed Kaziranga National Park. And in Bhutan we saw three species of monkeys, including the endangered Gee's Golden Lutung (a.k.a. Langur); other members of the group even had a glimpse of the social media favorite Red Panda (which is rarely seen in Bhutan). The timing of our Rockjumper tour was designed to be early enough in the year that the higher elevation species are still down fairly low, but late enough to avoid the cold weather. It was also the time when the rhododendrons were in full bloom, making the high-altitude forest very colorful! The highest point we reached was about 13,000 feet, and it is not possible to go higher in Bhutan without extensive trekking. There were only two significant downsides to the tour. First, Bhutan regulates tourism and imposes surcharges, so tours there are not cheap. Second, there was a haze throughout the tour that obscured our views of the high mountains. Our local guides said this was due to forest fires, but I suspect drifting pollution from nearby India may also have played a role. Also, some areas of Bhutan are lacking tourist facilities, so we spent five nights camping; it was fairly comfortable, but might be trying for older folks."

Mrs. Gould's Sunbird, Photo by Jim Moore

Here are two ebird links to Jim's trip reports:

Assam trip report:

https://ebird.org/tripreport/254595

Bhutan trip report:

https://ebird.org/tripreport/254597

Martin Boer says he managed to fit in some birding outside the capital of Bangkok on a recent business trip to Thailand and racked up his 1,000th bird when spotting the Asian Brown Flycatcher in the Chonburi province."The trip included plenty of other lifers, but the absolute highlight was seeing two Spoon-billed Sandpipers (#1014) bopping around the salt pans and mudflats of the Bang Pakong River. These highly distinctive and critically endangered stints are such a rarity that just on that day alone, birders had come from as far afield as Hong Kong, Sweden, and the UK to marvel at the glorious spatulate bills of these pint-sized waders."

Spoonbilled Sandpiper, Photo by Martin Boer's Swedish guide

Alan Johnston, saw his 4,000th life bird on a trip to India in February 2024. Alan writes that "number 4,000 was a Tickell's Leaf Warbler seen in the spectacular Kaziranga National Park, Assam, India. It is a small brown bird, but it was a special moment." Below is a photo of Alan with his guide, Ansar Khan. Number 4,001 which followed shortly thereafter was a more colorful bird, the Chestnut-capped Babbler.

Roy Howard had the opportunity to spend May and June serving as minister-in-residence for a congregation in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. "On breaks from pastoral work, I spent my time birding in the local area. I was very pleased to see the Montezuma Quail. There have been just sixteen reported sightings of this quail in San Miguel. The only photograph to date is my own. Another highlight was the Rose-throated Becard seen at La Huerta. In the San Miguel area alone, I've seen over 45 new birds." And he was still there when he sent this!

Rose-throated Becard, Photo by Roy Howard

Carol McClelland went with five others on a trip to Flagstaff, Arizona, area birding spots, led by John Coons of Field Guides who has lived in Flagstaff for 30 years, she says. "My goal was red-faced warbler, my only missing warbler, which we got on two different days. The California Condor was easily seen as we watched seven hanging out on the Navajo Bridge, south of Page. We saw all the western woodpeckers plus the rare-in-Colorado Downy. We stayed at the same motel in Flagstaff every night, allowing us to be up early for different locales."

California Condor, Photo by Carol McClelland

Diane Durham writes:"Earlier this month, my husband, Stephen Krupa, and I found ourselves free for the weekend in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. We trekked up to Fraser's Hill, a resort area and birding hotspot about two and a half hours from KL city center by car. On my first visit to Malaysia, I can claim 115 species spotted over the weekend with 80 of them lifers for me. What was most exciting was the human activity in Fraser's Hill – the 35th International Bird Race whose aim is to preserve nature and promote the hill station as a bird

sanctuary. We had never heard of a bird race before and soon learned that teams of three were trying to get the most species identified and photographed in the time limit (about 28 hours). There were 109 teams representing 10 countries, from seasoned birders to youths. Despite the competitive nature of the event, comradery was very much on display, despite everyone speaking different languages... the common language was birds. Everyone was quite helpful in identifying and locating birds – together, groups followed the Red-headed Trogon trying to get the best photograph and sat patiently waiting for the Malayan Partridge to make an appearance. Bird races are popular in Southeast Asia, with ten races in Malaysia as well as races in Vietnam and Hong Kong. I was able to find a race t-shirt and you may see me wearing it around MoCo.

Red-headed Trogon, Photo by Diane Durham

Malayan Partridge, Photo by Diane Durham

Jo Cox writes:"My husband Glen and I headed down to Arkansas in late March in our camper van, staying at some wonderful state parks and campgrounds. The purpose of the trip was to meet friends at Crater of Diamonds State Park to see the solar eclipse on April the 8th. Luckily, the weather was perfect during the eclipse, and we witnessed just under 4 minutes of totality. I had not realized we were on the central flyway and were able to catch some early warblers, vireos, swallows and swifts at the Crater of Diamonds and on our travels through the beautiful Ouachita and Ozark Mountains. Overall, on our trip we had 95 species, including 14 species of wonderful warblers. All in all, we loved Arkansas.'The Natural State' lived up to its reputation with some excellent state parks and lots of good habitat for birds." eBird Trip report: https://ebird.org/tripreport/217894

Leslie Simmons writes that she and Jim Boughton also made a pilgrimage to view the eclipse, in their case to southeast Texas, and also went on to bird areas they hadn't been to before. "A boat trip in Aransas Bay found Whooping Cranes. Favorable winds on South Padre Island brought in spring migrants, along with a vagrant Mexican Violetear that was fueling up in a neighborhood bottlebrush tree. At Santa Margarita Ranch on the Rio Grande, we dipped on a few birds we had hoped for, but were lucky to find three lifers: Mexican Duck, Brown Jay, and Audubon's Oriole. We visited many birding hotspots, thanks to tips from friends. Perhaps the strangest was for the Cattle Tyrant, a South American vagrant that friends told us 'Hangs out near the blue dumpster in the car park of the Oyster restaurant in downtown Corpus Christie.' Got it. As we all know, birding often depends on luck. We took a detour to find the Southern Lapwing that had shown up at a local golf course the day before. At King Ranch, we hoped to, and did indeed find, the Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, among other rarities. It was a fun, memorable and productive trip – 200 birds of which 17 were life birds." Chris Wright

Cattle Tyrant, Photo by Leslie Simmons

Brown Jay, Photo by Leslie Simmons

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl, Photo by Leslie Simmons

TALBOT COUNTY

Tributes to TCBC Member Vince DeSanctis 1941-2024

The first time I met Vince was shortly after I started birding. Christy and I were walking around the neighborhood, and I heard someone call out my name. It was Vince who had seen me on my daily birding walks. Within a few days, he took Christy and me to Pickering Creek for our first of many birding adventures. On this first trip, he kept the checklist so we could relax and focus on the birds.

From that moment on, a new world and a deeper appreciation of nature, opened for me. Vince took it upon himself to show me all his favorite birding spots, which were numerous in Talbot and surrounding counties. He also introduced me to the Talbot County Bird Club, where I met truly wonderful fellow birders.

Thanks to Vince, I will always have these lifelong memories. I know we were lucky to be his friends, and that Vince will be with each one of us for a very long time.

Randy and Christy Gonzales

Vince DeSanctis, Photo by Dave Burgevin

Vince and I were in many ways opposites but that did not keep us from forming a friendship and respecting each other. We had many interesting discussions about identification of difficult birds. Vince far exceeded my abilities in the identification of *Empidonax* Flycatchers. He was always able to pick out the minute detail or tonal difference that separated these difficult species.

Vince secured permission for birding in the Masters property on Tilghman Island. He undertook the maintenance of the trails there for several years. Access to that area benefited local birders as well as those from outside. His efforts in opening this area contributed greatly to the number of birds found on Tilghman each fall. It is difficult to accept that I will no longer get to meet him wandering the trails that he blazed in there. Additionally, birding Poplar Island without Vince will not be the same. *Jeff Effinger*

I am a birder thanks to Vince's guidance, and I am thankful to him for encouraging me. If I could get a"lifer," Vince was up for a road trip to find it. Vince loved to teach and share his knowledge. I was amazed that he knew when and where to look for certain species and that he could drive there without GPS! Vince"took me "under his wing," and through his efforts I now have a birding obsession. I will forever be grateful for his mentoring. I truly miss not being able to share new birding adventures with him. *Suzette Stitely*

We met Vince, in February of 2011 when we joined a walk that he led at Pickering Creek Audubon Center. We were impressed by his vast birding skills, passion, and his ability to help newcomers to spot the bird.We left Pickering that

day determined to join the TCBC.

Vince asked us in 2013 if we would like to join his group on the Christmas Bird Count. We jumped at this opportunity. In 2023 when we met at sunrise for the Christmas Bird Count, Vince had already been looking for owls for 3 hours! Vince's documentation of a rare December Orange-crowned Warbler on that day brought him a lot of joy. We love to picture Vince as a Force of Nature chasing his passions.

Linda & Pete Yungbluth

Vince quickly assumed the status of club representative on Tilghman Island. He recruited many regional colleagues to the Christmas Bird Count, and, in 2014, he assumed the role of coordinator of the count's Broad Creek Sector upon the retirement of his good friend Les. He was responsible for negotiating permission for sector participants to bird many private properties. His attitude was always positive, even with the most recalcitrant landowners, and his sincerity and outgoing personality won most of them over. His greatest achievement was arranging for Talbot Bird Club members and colleagues to bird what became known as the Masters' Property, one of the last of the undeveloped lands on the South end of the island. This scrub and forested parcel has become a Mecca for migrant birds spring and fall. Vince birded it regularly, sometimes reporting warbler after warbler and occasionally turning up rarities like an Olive-sided Flycatcher. He led many bird walks there, and on some memorable mornings he and spouse Francine hosted a post-walk breakfast in their home.

As an educator myself, it was easy to relate to Vince's academic background. When birding was slow (it seldom was with him), we had quiet conversations about college teaching and administration. His positive attitude always held; voicing complaints was not his forte. Shortly after his passing, Francine offered his spotting scope to the Youth Program of the MD Ornithological Society (YMOS), "for the purpose of educating young birders." The scope was put into action by elementary-age YMOS participants in this year's World Series of Birding at Cape May, NJ. Their two teams came in 1st and 2nd, with 145 and 142 species reported. Vince must be smiling at the heartwarming photos of these youngsters using his scope in the field.

The 2024 St. Michaels Christmas Bird Count will be dedicated to the memory of **Vince DeSanctis**. The colleagues he recruited so well have already volunteered to coordinate the Broad Creek Sector, not to replace him, but to honor his legacy.

Wayne H. Bell, PhD, Senior Associate

Center for Environment and Society, Washington College

Talbot County Bird Club Trip to Magee Marsh

The Talbot County Bird Club visited Magee Marsh, and other nearby birding spots in Lucas and Ottawa Counties in Ohio, from 7 May through 9 May. While a persistent easterly wind kept the the number of migrants low, excellent views were obtained of the species encountered.

The weather on the first two days was pleasant, even with an easterly breeze. The warm temperatures and a fair sky made for enjoyable birding. The species of Warblers encountered on the boardwalk through Magee Marsh were close and in excellent plumage. Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Palm, Parula, Prothonotary and Redstart all were seen well and even photographed. A Gray-cheeked Thrush was a bit less cooperative on the first day, but even that secretive species was seen well.

Visits to Howard Marsh during the afternoon of the first two days provided good views of shorebirds and other water birds. Black-necked Stilts, Dunlin, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer and Least Sandpiper were found in the scattered mud flats. A Common Gallinule was spotted on the first day in this same area. While Pied-billed Grebes were not as vocal as in past visits we heard a few calling in this area. A few Wilson's Phalaropes were seen on a visit on May 8th.

Thursday, May 9th, greeted our visit with cloudy skies, a cool breeze and a threat of rain. Maumee Bay State Park, before the rain moved in, provided close views of both Sora and Virginia Rails. Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, White-crowned Sparrow, and Prothonotary Warbler were great additions to the walk here. A visit to Cedar Point NWR led us to our only Glossy Ibis and Short-billed Dowitcher of the trip. Several duck species were found here as well.

The group fragmented as the rain increased, but after an excellent lunch, a visit to Ottawa NWR led to a great view of a Whip-Poor-Will, perched on a fallen log. Trumpeter Swan, Sandhill Cranes and more shorebirds finished off our visit to northern Ohio. Jeff Effinger

Front: Bettye Maki L-R: Bill Bulmer, Charles Hopkins, Wayne Bell, Danny Poet, Lisa Sargeant, Susie Pratt, Bobbie Wells, Christina Niciporciukas.

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MOS Calendar

Through 11/30/2024

Field Trips Please follow all restrictions requested by the host organization. Additional details are posted on MOS and chapter web sites.			
8/1	6 – 8 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
8/3	7:30 – 11 AM	Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, South Tract	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area near the visitor center.
8/4	5:30 AM – 12 PM	Blackwalnut and Lowes Wharf	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Migrants and Herons. Meet at Lowe's Wharf.
8/5	8 – 10:30 AM	Sang Run Bird Walk	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Contact Melissa at westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com or 240-920-8260.
8/6	TBD	eBird Monitoring at Pickering	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Resident and early migrant birds.
8/10	7:45 AM – 12:30 PM	Bombay Hook NWR Trip	Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Morning refuge bird hunt, Targets: shorebirds, wading birds
8/11	5:30 AM – 12 PM	Blackwalnut and Lowes Wharf	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Migrants and Herons. Meet at Lowe's Wharf.
8/15	6 – 8 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
8/16	5 – 8 PM	Hummingbird Happy Hour	Host: Harford Bird Club Call Sue Procell with questions (443-417-4919 or procellmd@gmail.com). Description: Potluck at Suzanne and Larry Procell's.
8/17	7:30 – 9 AM	Beat the Heat Summer Beginner Field Trip	Host: Howard County Bird Club Register at valnjeff55@gmail.com Description: Walk through pastures bordering a variety of habitats on private property. Limit 8..
8/17	7:30 – 11 AM	Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area off Governor Bridge Road, south and east of the Route 301/Route 3/Route 50 interchange.
8/17	4:30 – 9:30 PM	Purple Martin Palooza	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Elaine Scribner-Wagner (517-622-1211 or authorelainescribner@gmail.com). Description: An evening on the water to witness an amazing congregation of purple martins. Bring your own kayak/canoe if you have one. We will be on the river by 7 pm and return to shore around 8:30 pm.
8/18	5:30 AM – 12 PM	Blackwalnut and Lowes Wharf	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Migrants and Herons. Meet at Lowe's Wharf.
8/22	5 – 8 PM	Birds and Brews	Host: Harford Bird Club Description: Join Mark Johnson and Elaine & Steve Wagner-Scribner for birds and camaraderie on Hopkins Farm while observing the peak of Common Nighthawk and Purple Martin fall migration. Meet at 3833 Rider Lane, Havre De Grace. Rain date 8/29.
8/24	10:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Pot Luck and Bird Walk at Lake Mardela	Host: Caroline Bird Club Description: Meet at the pavilion on the left.

8/25	5:30 AM – 12 PM	Blackwalnut and Lowes Wharf	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Migrants and Herons. Meet at Lowe's Wharf.
8/28	8 AM – 2 PM	Shorebird Survey at Bombay Hook	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com 410-991-8300
8/31	7 – 11 AM	Annual Bird Club Bird Walk and Brunch	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Eric Vangrin (443-417-7219, evangrin@msn.com). Description: Join us at the pavilion at Eden Mill Nature Center for migratory bird banding and a bird walk followed by a potluck brunch. Banding – 7 AM
9/1	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Hurlock Turf Farm and WWTP	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Shorebirds. Meet at Easton Acme.
9/1	7 – 9 AM	YMBC Walk: Meadowside Nature Center/Lake Frank	Host: Montgomery Bird Club Mentor: Mark England Description: Meet at the Meadowside Nature Center parking lot. Reservations required via http://tinyurl.com/YMBCSummer24.
9/1	10:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Dick Smith Memorial Butterfly Walk	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Linda Hunt, raven10322@hotmail.com Description: Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies with instruction on their identification. Meet at Elkhorn Garden Plots.
9/3	TBD	eBird Monitoring at Pickering	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Resident and early migrant birds.
9/4	7 AM – 12 PM	Ma & Pa Trail w/Annie's Playground Bird Walk	Host: Harford Bird Club Call Susan Hood for details (410-937-7552 or susanjhood@comcast.net). Description: Walk along the railroad bed to search for fall migrants. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Smith La (off of Connolly Rd.)
9/5	5 – 8 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
9/7	6 AM – 12 PM	Hooper's Island	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leader Jeff Effinger Description: Shorebirds, gulls and passerines. Meet at Easton Acme.
9/7	7:30 – 11 AM	Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, South Tract	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area near the visitor center.
9/7	8 – 11 AM	Beyond Field Guides: Online Resources	Host: Howard County Bird Club Please email Val Swan at valnjeff55@gmail.com. Description: Bird walk followed by a presentation in the Mt. Pleasant Farm Nature Center classroom. The presentation will be an overview of online resources.
9/7	Contact leader	Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Evan Hull, 717-778-1920 or evanmatthewhull@gmail.com Description: fall migrants.
9/8	7 – 11 AM	Sora Sunrise Paddle	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Jean Palanuwech at mothergoose8257@gmail.com or 908-507-1875. Description: Meet at the Anita C. Leight Estuary Center to find the elusive Sora Rail. This trip is for experienced paddlers. Registration required; limit 12
9/8	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Rockburn Branch Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Mary Lou Clark, doctorfx_99@yahoo.com Description: Moderate walking through the woods and fields looking for migrants. Meet in the parking lot on the left just past the restored schoolhouse.
9/8	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Kinder Farm Park Walk	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com 410-991-8300
9/13	7 – 10 AM	Boat Survey for Sora at Patuxent River Park	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com 410-991-8300 Group Leader: Greg Kearns, greg.kearns@pgparks.com, 301-395-2483

9/14	7:30 – 11:30 AM	Eden Mill/Falling Branch Bird Walk	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Dennis Kirkwood for details (443-299-2272 or newarkfarms@gmail.com). Description: This trip should be the peak for migrating flycatchers and warblers. Meet at the Nature Center at Eden Mill.
9/14	8 AM – 12 PM	Patuxent Research Refuge Birding	Host: YMOS Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Morning hunt for late migrants and early arrivals
9/14	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at North County RP	Host: Caroline Bird Club Leader Danny Poet. Description: Meet at the parking lot at the end of drive.
9/14	Contact leader	Manahan Road	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lynn Kieffer, 301-943-5290 or lynnkieffer@yahoo.com Description: fall migrants
9/18	Contact leader	Wiles Branch Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Emma Knox, 301-922-7046 or emmahully@gmail.com Description: fall migrants:
9/19	5 – 8 PM	Lake Artemesia Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Terry Watson or Marc Manheimer Description: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Ballew Avenue and Berwyn Road in Berwyn Heights.
9/20	9 AM – 1 PM	Boat/Bus Bird Survey at Hart-Miller Island	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com 410-991-8300 Group Leaders: Marcia Watson, Marshwren50@comcast.net, 301-310-2486 and Gene Scarpula, ejscarp@comcast.net
9/20-22	Weekend	Chincoteague NWR Weekend	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com Description: shorebirds and fall migrants
9/21	7 AM – 12 PM	Blackwalnut	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Waterfowl, gulls, terns and passerines. Meet at Masters Entrance.
9/21	7:30 – 11 AM	Governor Bridge Natural Area	Host: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS Leader Bill Sefton. Description: Meet at the parking area off Governor Bridge Road, south and east of the Route 301/Route 3/Route 50 interchange.
9/21	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Banding at Eden Mill	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Mark Johnson for details (443-528-0045 or MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com) Description: Stop by the banding pavilion for a demonstration of banding techniques.
9/22	8 – 10:30 AM	Monthly Quiet Waters Walk	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jim Collatz, jcollatz@aol.com, 301-254-0188
9/23	All day	Howard Conservancy Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club Description: This trip will be a skywatch for migrating raptors and other potential flybys. Rain date 9/24.
9/28	7 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Swan Creek Wetlands	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Stan Arnold, thrushhost@gmail.com, 410-428-7567
9/28	7:30 – 11:30 AM	Harford Glen Bird Walk	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Lynn Feryus for details (443-910-5570 or lfery@verizon.net). Description: Walk in search of fall migrants.
9/28	9:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Birding Optics Demonstration Event	Host: Howard County Bird Club Register at tomseivert@verizon.net. Description: An optics demonstration and hands on trial event at Mt. Pleasant Farm, with a presentation covering equipment basics. Space is limited so please register.
9/28	Contact leader	Sweet Run State Park	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Evan Hull, 717-778-1920 or evanmatthewhull@gmail.com and Barb Kemerer, 301-514-3145 or bkemerer1@aol.com Description: fall migrants
9/29	7 AM – 12 PM	Wade's Point	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Waterfowl, gulls, terns and passerines
9/29	8 AM – 12 PM	Field Trip to Foreman's Branch	Host: Caroline Bird Club To register contact Debby Bennett at dabennett1996@gmail.com Description: Bird banding observation. Great for people of all ages. Rain date October 6.

10/1	TBD	eBird Monitoring at Pickering	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Resident and early migrant birds.
10/3	8 AM – 5 PM	Waggoner's Gap Bird Trip	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Mark Johnson for details (443-528-0045 or MarkSJohnson2@gmail.com). Description: Join in for a trip to one of the best hawk-watching locations in the east. Meet at the Park-N-Ride at Rt. 152 and 147.
10/4-6	Weekend	Cape May Weekend	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com Description: fall migrants, warblers, hawks, shorebirds
10/5	7 AM – 5 PM	BIG SIT at Fort Smallwood	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com 410-991-8300
10/5	8 AM – 5 PM	Cape May Trip	Host: YMOS Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Hawkwatch, Seawatch, and Marsh Exploration from Higbee Beach WMA to Avalon
10/5	10 AM – 12 PM	Hawk ID class	Samantha Dixon, Rocky Gap Ranger II presents a class on Hawk Identification at Rocky Gap State Park. Meet at the Nature Center.
10/5	Contact leader	Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center	Host: Talbot Bird Club Leaders the Yungbluths Description: Waterfowl and migrant passerines.
10/6	11 AM – 3 PM	Hawk Watch	Rocky Gap Ranger Samantha Dixon leads a Hawk Watch at the Dan's Rock Overlook.
10/8-11	Weekend	Cape May Trip	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Peter Hanan, peter.hanan@icloud.com, 301-580-2785
10/12	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Rocks State Park Bird Trip	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Eric Vangrin for details 443-417-7219 or evangrin@msn.com. Description: Walk through the woods at Rocks. Meet at the ranger station at Rocks Chrome Hill Rd.
10/12	Contact leader	Big Sit	Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108 or lacsmith12@comcast.net Description: fall migrants and fundraiser for FBC and Audubon Society of Central MD. Rain date 10/13.
10/12-13	Weekend	Irish Grove	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Waterfowl, marsh birds and passerines. Meet at Easton Acme at 6 AM. Saturday night dinner provided.
10/13	7:30 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Shafer Park	Host: Washington County Bird Club RSVP to Mark Abdy at 301-574-1301 Description: Meet in parking lot near Police Station in Boonsboro
10/13	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Kinder Farm Park Walk	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com 410-991-8300
10/13	All day	Caroline's Big Sit	Host: Caroline Bird Club Description: Location: Adkins Arboretum Wetlands Overlook near the Visitor Center. Will run from 7:30 am to early evening for some owling.
10/19	6:30 AM – 12 PM	Holland Point	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Leader Jeremy Castle Description: Waterfowl and other migrants.
10/19	7 AM – 3 PM	Birding at Assateague National Seashore	Host: Tri-county Bird Club Leader Mike Walsh, 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net Description: Search for coastal migrants, especially hawks, warblers and sparrows. Meet at Schumaker Park parking lot at 7:00 am or at the National Seashore Visitor Center parking lot (before the bridge) at 7:45 am.
10/19	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Howard Conservancy Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club Co-leaders Mary Lou Clark and Lynn Gregg. Description: This trip will be a skywatch for migrating raptors and other potential flybys.

10/19	11 AM – 3 PM	Hawk Watch at Town Hill Overlook	Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Contact Melissa at westernmdbirdclub@gmail.com or 240-920-8260
10/19	Contact leader	Lilypons Water Gardens	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Riley Metcalfe, 347-443-7210 or rileydmetcalfe@gmail.com Description: fall migrants
10/20	8 – 10:30 AM	Monthly Quiet Waters Walk	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jim Collatz,jcollatz@aol.com, 301-254-0188
10/23	7:30 – 11 AM	Bi-Annual Gibson Island Survey	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: lindabvit@hotmail.com, 410-901-7555
10/26	8 – 11:30 AM	Swan Harbor Bird Walk	Host: Harford Bird Club Call Dennis Kirkwood for details (443-299-2272 or newarkfarms@gmail.com). Description: Check out this County hot spot with hopes of finding rare sparrows, waterfowl and herons.
10/26	Contact leader	Bombay Hook NWR	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com Description: waterfowl & wintering shorebirds
10/27	7 AM – 12 PM	Frederick Douglass Park	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Sparrows and field birds. Meet at Easton Acme.
10/28	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Howard Conservancy Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club Description: This trip will be a skywatch for migrating raptors and other potential flybys.
11/1	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Adele Clagett, adele@birding.pictures, 410-212-2652
11/2-3	Weekend	Irish Grove Work Weekend	Host: Sanctuary Committee Contact Jeremy Castle: jeremy.castle@mdbirds.org for any questions or to sign up. Description: This year's activities will include trail maintenance, structure maintenance, and house cleaning/upkeep, and, of course, BIRDING.
11/2	7 AM – 12 PM	Oxford Conservation Park	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Waterfowl, Meadowlarks and Sparrows.
11/2	8 AM – 12 PM	Bird Walk at Lynch Preserve, Two Johns	Host: Caroline Bird Club Leader Robin Lahnemann & friends. Description: Meet at the end of Robins Creek Road, Preston.
11/2	8 AM – 4 PM	Chincoteague NWR Trip	Host: YMOS Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Refuge Exploration - Waterfowl, Wading Birds, Winter Arrivals
11/2	9:30 AM – 12 PM	Howard Conservancy Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club Russ Ruffing, russruffing@gmail.com Description: Sky watch for late-migrating raptors and other potential goodies.
11/2	Contact leader	Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Riley Metcalfe, 347-443-7210 or rileydmetcalfe@gmail.com Description: lingering migrants, sparrows
11/3	8 – 11 AM	Monthly Kinder Farm Park Walk	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com 410-991-8300
11/3	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Russell Kovach, russell.kovach@gmail.com Description: Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake.
11/4	8:30 AM – 12 PM	Howard Conservancy Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club Description: This trip will be a skywatch for migrating raptors and other potential flybys.
11/5	TBD	eBird Monitoring at Pickering	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Resident and late migrant birds.

11/6	8:30 AM – 12 PM	Howard Conservancy Sky Watch	Host: Howard County Bird Club Description: This is an impromptu leaderless walk for an opportunity to bird with any friends who show up.
11/9	7 AM – 12 PM	Kingston Landing to Turkey Creek	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Waterfowl, Horned Larks and Pipits. Meet at Easton Acme.
11/9	7:30 AM – 5 PM	Bombay Hook Bird Trip	Host: Harford Bird Club Call Lynn Feryus for details (443-910-5570 or lfery@verizon.net). Description: Scoping pools and flats for waterfowl, herons, and hawks. Meet at the RT. 155/I95 Havre-de-Grace P&R.
11/9	Contact leader	Eastern Neck NWR	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com
11/10	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Swan Harbor Farm	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Matt Addicks, mattaddicks13@gmail, 443-987-7208
11/10	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Description: Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake.
11/13	8 – 11 AM	Bird Walk at Piney Orchard	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Wendy Crowe, wcrowe437@gmail.com
11/16	8 AM – 12 PM	Conowingo Dam	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader Guy Di Roma, guydiroma@hotmail.com Description: Half-day driving trip to see bald eagles, great blue herons, cormorants, vultures and ducks. Meet at the Broken Land P&R Lot West to carpool. Please RSVP..
11/16	8:30 – 11 AM	FAMILY FRIENDLY! Mariner Point Park Bird Walk	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Jean Palanuwech for details at mothergoose8257@gmail.com or call/text: 908-507-1875. Description: Come out for a family-friendly trip for leisurely birding in this wetland park. Beginners welcome! Sparrows, waterfowl, and later migrants.
11/16	Contact leader	Hawk Watch	Host: Frederick Bird Club Leader Tom Humphrey, 240-793-2508 Description: migrating hawk watch
11/17	6 AM – 12 PM	Bombay Hook	Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Waterfowl and lingering shorebirds.
11/17	8 – 10:30 AM	Monthly Quiet Waters Walk	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Jim Collatz,jcollatz@aol.com, 301-254-0188
11/17	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Leader David Holmes, musiclbndr@gmail.com Description: Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake.
11/23	7:30 AM – 5 PM	Eastern Neck NWR	Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Eric Vangrin, 443-417-7219 or evangrin@msn.com. Description: Trip in search of waterfowl, Brown-headed Nuthatches and possibly Red Crossbills. Meet at the RT. 155/I95 Havre-de-Grace P&R.
11/24	8 – 11 AM	Centennial Park	Host: Howard County Bird Club Description: Easy walking on paved paths around Centennial Lake.
11/29	8 AM – 5 PM	Bird Walk/Drive at Blackwater NWR	Host: Anne Arundel Bird Club Contact: Peter Hanan, peter.hanan@icloud.com, 301-580-2785
11/29	TBD	Owl Prowl	Host: Talbot Bird Club. Description: Owls.
11/30	8 – 11 AM	Conowingo Dam Bird Walk	Host: Harford Bird Club Call Dennis Kirkwood for details (443-299-2272 or newarkfarms@gmail.com). Description: Watch Bald Eagles, gulls, and waterfowl and walk the trail for Winter Wren and woodpeckers. Meet at the parking lot at Fisherman's Park.

Meetings

Meetings may be virtual or in-person (or both)! Additional details, including links, will be posted on chapter web sites and the MOS calendar, as available.

8/15	6 – 7:30 PM	Meeting: Harford Bird Club	Wingspan Game Night	Bel Air Library
8/25	4 – 8 PM	Picnic: Washington County Bird Club	Picnic	Washington Monument SP
9/4	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Carroll County Bird Club	Speaker TBA	Carroll Nonprofit Center
9/5	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Frederick Bird Club	Kathy Shollenberger, Coordinator, PG Habitat Advisor Program will speak on "If you Care About Birds, Create Habitat"	Hood College
9/7	10 AM – 12 PM	MOS Board Meeting	Host: MOS	Chesapeake College
9/10	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Speaker TBA	Virtual
9/12	7:30 – 9 PM	Meeting: Howard County Bird Club	Dave Ziolkowski will speak on "An Introduction to Birding in the New World Tropics"	Robinson Nature Center
9/18	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Montgomery Bird Club	Speaker: Stephen Davies on "Self-Drive Safaris in Southern Africa". In-person and Zoom.	Potomac Presbyterian Church
9/22	4-7 PM	Tri-County Bird Club Annual Picnic	Annual Kick-off Picnic at the home of Paul Bystrak and Marylee Ross. To RSVP, and to get directions, contact Paul at shrike@comcast.net.	5968 Rockawalkin Road, Salisbury,
9/23	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Meeting: Tri-County Bird Club	"The Autumn Warbler ID Challenge" presented by Wayne Klockner	Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore, 301 Tilghman Road.
9/24	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Washington County Bird Club	Andy Brown will talk on "Maryland's Farmland Raptors."	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
10/2	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Carroll County Bird Club	Speaker TBA	Carroll Nonprofit Center
10/3	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Frederick Bird Club	Fred Shaffer will speak on "Guide to Gulls"	Hood College
10/8	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Speaker TBA	Virtual
10/10	7:30 – 9 PM	Meeting: Howard County Bird Club	Josh Ward will speak on "Marbled Murrelet Research"	Robinson Nature Center
10/16	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Montgomery Bird Club	Speakers: Anne Mytych and Lisa Burke on "Birds of Southeast Arizona". In-person and Zoom.	Potomac Presbyterian Church
10/19	9 AM – 12 PM	Meeting: Caroline Bird Club	Program TBA	Waves of Choptank Visitor Center
10/20	2 – 5 PM	75th Anniversary Celebration	Please join the Harford Bird Club as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary. Lee Peterson, son of Roger Tory Peterson) will be our guest speaker.	Darlington Fire Hall

10/22	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Washington County Bird Club	Speaker TBA	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
10/28	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Meeting: Tri-County Bird Club	Program, TBA	Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore, 301 Tilghman Road.
11/6	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Carroll County Bird Club	Speaker TBA	Carroll Nonprofit Center
11/7	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Frederick Bird Club	Tim Carney and Kristina Motley will speak on “Poplar Island”	Hood College
11/12	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Patuxent Bird Club/PGAS	Speaker TBA	Virtual
11/14	7:30 – 9 PM	Meeting Howard County Bird Club	Scott Harris will speak on “RaptorQuest: Chasing America's Raptors”	Robinson Nature Center
11/16	9 AM – 12 PM	Meeting: Caroline Bird Club	Program TBA	Waves of Choptank Visitor Center
11/20	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Montgomery Bird Club	Speaker: Jo Cox on "The C and O Canal Count" In-person and Zoom.	Potomac Presbyterian Church
11/25	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Meeting: Tri-County Bird Club	Program, TBA	Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore, 301 Tilghman Road.
11/26	7 – 9 PM	Meeting: Washington County Bird Club	Speaker TBA	Mt. Aetna Nature Center
11/22-24	All day	MOS Convention	Host: MOS. Check www.mosconvention.org for details.	Ocean City

Seasonal Counts		
Dorchester County YMOS	Contact George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669	9/14
Caroline County	Coordinator: Debby Bennett at dabennett1996@gmail.com.	9/21
Carroll County	Coordinator Scott Hodgdon, scotthodgdon@msn.com	9/21
Dorchester County	Contact Harry Armistead, harryarmistead@hotmail.com	9/21
Howard County	Sign up at http://howardbirds.org/howard/counts.htm	9/21
Somerset County	Coordinator Pat Valdata at pvaldata1@gmail.com	9/21
Washington County	Coordinator Doris Berger, 301-739-8907	9/21
Allegany County	Coordinator Chuck Hager, drhager@verizon.net.	9/22
Talbot County	Contact Ron Ketter, rgketter@yahoo.com or 707-373-5532	9/22
Wicomico County	Coordinator Paul Bystrak at shrike@comcast.net	9/22